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(9482.)

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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS

OF

ASIATIC TURKEY AND ARABIA.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 9480.]

217

October to December 1908.

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October to December 1908.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Asiatic Turkey and Arabia.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 9480.]

[34106]

No. 1.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 2.)

Sir, *India Office, October* 1, 1908.

WITH reference to your letter dated the 26th May last, regarding the dispute between the Turkish authorities and the Sheikh of Koweit in connection with the latter's property at Fao, I am directed by Viscount Morley to forward herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from the Government of India on the subject.

From the local investigations, which were carried out by Major Knox in July last, it would seem to be doubtful whether Sheikh Mubarak's pretensions are of a nature which the Turkish Government is likely to admit. But Lord Morley agrees with the Government of India as to the desirability, on political grounds, that a Committee should be appointed, in accordance with the Sheikh's desire, for the final settlement of the matters in dispute; and he would suggest, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, that the Porte should be approached accordingly.

As regards the constitution of the proposed Committee, Lord Morley is of opinion that the presence of a British officer would be advantageous, and he desires to support the Government of India's suggestion that the British Consul at Bussorah should be nominated for the purpose.

I am also to forward copies of correspondence received by mail from India on the 28th ultimo as to the attitude of the Sheikh.

I am, &c.
(Signed) COLIN G. CAMPBELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Major Cox to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)
(Extract.) *Bushire, August* 27, 1908.

THE Political Agent now reports that Sheikh Mubarak is veering round, and is in readiness to come to an understanding if senior representative of British India Company comes to an interview with him. Political Agent recommends that I should still adhere to the original proposal that fast mail-steamer service be suspended pending settlement of the question of quarantine. In this latter connection First Assistant suggests, and I concur, that if, as is expected, Political Agent gets his steam-launch in autumn, he could send to Fao for his mails when it is necessary, and fast service to Koweit could be suspended altogether, and the question of quarantine would be then ordinarily unimportant. British India Company would probably welcome this.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Major Cox to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Bushire, March* 8, 1908.

IN continuation of my letters of to-day's date on the subject of improvement of quarantine arrangements at Muscat and Bahrein, I have the honour to address you on the subject of the improvements of the quarantine arrangements at Koweit.

2. At present an extremely rough-and-ready form of quarantine exists by which the Agency Surgeon visits suspected ships, and passengers are detained in boats for a few hours (which is sufficient to complete the five days' quarantine from Kurrachee).

In this connection I beg to forward herewith copies of two letters from the Political Agent, Koweit, on the subject. It will be seen that Major Knox suggests that the Government of India should equip and maintain a quarantine establishment on the lines of those at other ports in the Persian Gulf and that the Island of Shweikh should be occupied for the quarantine station, the fishermen being compensated by a rent of 200 rupees per mensem and 25,000 rupees being paid to Sheikh Mubarak as rent for the island and for certain other considerations.

In regard to these proposals by Major Knox, I am of opinion that the question of leasing Shweikh Island on the terms proposed by Major Knox is quite distinct from the question of quarantine, and should not be mixed up with it unless the Defence Committee see any advantage in our obtaining control of the island in this way. The Sheikh might reasonably be expected to permit the quarantine station to be placed on the Island of Shweikh free of charge so long as we placate the fishermen, just as the Sheikh of Bahrein is giving a site, and seeing that the institution of quarantine will really be advantageous to the people of Koweit.

As regards the sum of 200 rupees per mensem proposed to be distributed among the fishermen of the island, I would observe that the quarantine station of Bushire is on the Island of Abbassek, where certain Persians have fishery rights. No compensation has ever been paid to them. They are permitted to fish anywhere from boats, but are not allowed to land within a certain distance of the quarantine station. It is possible that a similar arrangement might be feasible at Koweit.

3. As regards the question of cost involved, I am of opinion that suitable accommodation could be provided at a cost of about 800 rupees initial expenditure, and recurring charges amounting to some 3,000 rupees per annum.

I append a Memorandum by the Residency Surgeon showing the minimum requirements from a sanitary point of view and an estimate of the cost involved. I concur in the proposals made by the Residency Surgeon, and consider that, in view of Article 80 of the Paris Sanitary Convention, it will be necessary to have first-class quarters and insist on all first-class passengers undergoing quarantine.

In regard to the charges I would make the following observations :—

(*a.*) Allowance to Assistant Surgeon. As the Assistant Surgeon has a local allowance of 100 rupees, a monthly allowance of 100 rupees would be sufficient remuneration for performing the duties of Port Health Officer in addition to his other duties.

(*b.*) The chief quarantine guard on 25 rupees per mensem would be caretaker of the quarantine station and mechanician. The wages of the guards have been fixed at 17 rupees per mensem, as the rate of wages at Koweit are high.

(*c.*) Miscellaneous charges. These will include boat hire, petty repairs to buildings, purchase of disinfectants, and various charges which it is difficult to estimate accurately. The estimated amount is suggested for normal years, and would probably be exceeded in times of epidemic.

As regards quarantine fees I suggest that the following fees, which are approximately the same as those levied in Persian ports should be charged, viz. :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
First class	7	8	0
Second class	5	0	0
Third class	2	8	0

It is impossible to estimate the receipts which will be recovered on account of fees, as there is no basis on which to found an estimate. In any case except during an epidemic receipts will not be large, and need hardly be taken into consideration.

4. Finally, it appears from Major Knox' letters that the Sheikh is not particularly anxious to have quarantine, and that it will be impossible to get him to pay the working

expenses. In view, therefore, of the importance which His Majesty's Government attach to the establishment of British-controlled quarantine throughout the Gulf, I venture to urge that the Government of India should offer to take over the direct management of the Koweit quarantine and carry it on as a charge on the Government revenues. The cost involved would not be very great, being only an initial charge of 8,000 rupees and a recurring charge of approximately 3,000 rupees per annum.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Memorandum communicated by the Residency Surgeon to Major Cox.

ASSUMING that the provisions of the Paris Convention will be enforced at Koweit as at other Gulf ports, I should consider the following provision of buildings, staff, &c., sufficient :—

(A.)—*Buildings, &c.*

1. First-class passengers. One good room, with dressing-room and bath-room—the room to hold two beds. Tables, chairs, &c., should be provided. A small kitchen would also be necessary. All food, utensils, cook, &c., should be provided by passengers, friends in Koweit.

2. Second-class passengers. Two rooms with the necessary furniture. They could use the first-class kitchen. A latrine should be provided for these rooms.

3. Third-class passengers. Huts should be built to accommodate the average number of third-class passengers arriving in Koweit by the steamer which is always in quarantine. On this basis huts would probably have to be built for about thirty third-class passengers. Arrangements for expansion during epidemics would be necessary in addition. This could be met by the local purchase of matting and erection of mat huts. A latrine should also be provided for third-class passengers.

4. If situated on the mainland an encircling hedge of date sticks would also be necessary.

5. A small building to contain the stove.

6. The following chemicals may be provided at the start, together with a few tubs and wooden buckets. Also six syringes and a dozen mops :—

Methylated spirit	20 gallons.
Perchloride of mercury	20 lbs.
Carbolic acid (pure)	20 lbs.

7. Annual contingent allowance of 600 rupees, to be used for monthly contingencies, hire of boat for transporting passengers to quarantine, &c.

(B.)—*Staff, &c.*

1. There should be five quarantine guards, one of whom should be caretaker of the quarantine station and also mechanician.

2. Boat for landing passengers. This could probably be arranged for out of the contingent allowance in normal times.

Approximate Cost of the above Suggestions.

	Initial Expenses.
	Rupees.
First and second-class quarters	2,000
Furniture of above	250
Third-class quarters	2,000
Stove	3,000
Building for stove	400
Chemicals (to be supplied by the Medical Store Department) ..	..
Hedge round camp	..
Total	7,650

(Say 8,000 rupees.)

	Recurring Expenses
	Rupees.
Quarantine allowance to assistant surgeon	100 per mensem.
Contingencies	600 per annum.
Quarantine guards—	
One chief, at 25 rupees per mensem	93 per mensem.
Four guards, at 17 rupees	
Recurring expenses	2,916 per annum.

(Say 3,000 rupees.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 1.

Major Knox to Major Cox.

(Confidential.) *Koweit, December* 11, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 3rd December, 1907, on the subject of quarantine.

2. I would submit at the outset that I am perhaps travelling out of my province in making the suggestion below, which would cover, to a large extent, the whole question of quarantine for vessels arriving at the various Persian Gulf ports from Indian ports; but it has occurred to me that some such suggestion, if found feasible, would render the local problem at Koweit far simpler, and it might perhaps also be found a serviceable plan at other ports.

3. Our main difficulty here, from the quarantine point of view, is the horde of Arab boatmen, passengers and their friends, who try to board the steamer the minute she arrives in port. It is almost impossible, with the local authorities averse to strong measures, if not actually hostile to quarantine, to control this unruly crowd.

4. A minor difficulty, but still one that I do not see the possibility of any locally-enlisted staff dealing with successfully, is the disembarkation of passengers in one lot.

5. My most important suggestion is that there should be a permanent quarantine staff of six Indian policemen under a havildar, and under the orders of the ship's surgeon, employed with each vessel. The question of the pay of these men, and of the allowances to be paid to the ship's surgeon for this extra work, is completely beyond my ken, and I therefore need offer no excuse for not discussing it. Their duties would be to see that no one holds any communication with the ship on any pretext whatever, or leaves it before the local doctor boards the vessel. Quarantine would thus be imposed, as far as the vessel is concerned, with complete indifference to the wishes of Sheikhs or local authorities of any kind. Nobody can offer any reasonable objection to our doing what we like with our own ship, whatever may happen on shore.

6. The local doctor should then command the situation. He could first order up the boom destined to convey the passengers to quarantine, which he could have distinguished by a large yellow flag; he would probably go in it himself to the steamer. He would refuse to allow any cargo-boats or other to come alongside the steamer until his tale of passengers, with their baggage, was safely embarked under his own charge. This list of passengers, and the passengers, would be found ready prepared for him, on arrival, by the ship's quarantine staff.

7. He would thus be in a position to enforce quarantine on his own account on the passengers, provided he was given a general permission by the Sheikh or other local authority to enforce quarantine, more especially if the cost of a boom and the pay of boatmen in regular employ were sanctioned by Government. This, however, and the general question of arrangements on shore, will be discussed in a separate letter.

8. He would still further command the situation by directing the ship's surgeon and the quarantine staff of the steamer to admit no one at any time on board the steamer, unless armed with a conspicuous ticket of some kind to be delivered up on boarding the steamer, or with a regular passenger's ticket from the local agent of the Company, proving that the bearer was a genuine passenger. This latter suggestion will probably commend itself to the steamers' agents generally.

9. There would thus be no necessity for any local quarantine staff to board the steamer, except our own medical officers. The local arrangements here are to a large extent free from foreign criticism, and if this proposal was put in force no foreign

passenger would be able to say whether quarantine was enforced locally or not, but he would be bound to certify that, as far as the steamers were concerned, all reasonable precautions had been taken.

10. I fully realize that these proposals would not cover the case of steamers other than the British India steamers, but that phase of the problem has not, so far presented itself in Koweit at all, and local sailing craft must come under the head of local arrangements on shore, which I relegate to my letter promised in paragraph 7 above.

Inclosure 5 in No. 1.

Major Knox to Major Cox.

(Confidential.) *Koweit, December* 13, 1907.

IN my letter dated the 11th December, 1907, I had the honour to lay before you certain suggestions for enforcing quarantine by measures taken on board the steamers, which would considerably simplify the local problem at Koweit. I will now endeavour to deal with the supplementary precautions to be taken on shore.

2. Now that the Sheikh has consented in general terms to the imposition of quarantine on mail-steamers visiting this port, it would not be difficult, I think, if sufficient inducements were offered to him, and the expense of the scheme is not considered prohibitive, to set forth a regular scheme which would result in a very complete enforcement of quarantine regulations.

3. It would first of all be necessary to lease the Island of Shweikh, an ideal quarantine station, and to buy out the 'Awazim fishermen who have fishing rights on the island. The last portion of the expense would be, I venture to hope, a comparatively trifling one; 200 rupees per month would be an outside estimate. The acquisition of the island would perhaps raise less alarm among foreign Powers if acquired on these grounds, and as we may look forward to the cessation of plague some time or other, the island would be useful for other purposes when the necessity for quarantine had ceased, or when one might reasonably hope that it would be required for short periods only.

4. A condition of the lease would have to be that the Sheikh would be reasonably guided by our advice in quarantine regulations, and that he would submit his town to the general terms of the Paris Convention.

5. If these conditions are in a manner purchased from the Sheikh, the other measures to be taken will follow as a matter of course, and we should be able to enforce a perfect system of quarantine, and there need be no special expenses to be considered beyond those of an ordinary quarantine station or other parts of the Persian Gulf except the difficulty of water-supply (perhaps a condenser would best meet the situation), and the fact that we must be prepared to meet all expenditure ourselves and look for no income.

6. I am inclined to estimate that 25,000 rupees per annum would satisfy the Sheikh, and that it would be possible to tack on a secret clause to the Treaty that the Sheikh intrusted all his external relations and especially all quarantine matters to our guidance. This clause might then, if found at any time desirable, be appealed to in such cases as the help rendered to Sheikh Khazal of Mohammerah the other day, to which the Government of India, in their Secret despatch dated Simla, the 5th September, 1907, to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, took such exception.

7. These main proposals are in themselves so far-reaching that I have thought it best for the present to place them before you without attempting to discuss in detail the expenditure involved. The main item—the purchase of the Shiekh's good-will and the rent of the island—will be so costly that the remaining expenditure may be considered almost a *quantité négligeable*.

8. At the same time, it would be difficult, I venture to think, to find a more effective way of advertising to the world in general our position in Koweit and complete ascendancy in the Sheikh's councils, while the objects for which we had decided to exercise that control would be beyond the reach of criticism.

9. It would be well to defer the attempt to realize these proposals until we had an opportunity of seeing how the scheme sketched out in my letter dated the 13th December,

1907, is received, and to give the people of Koweit and the Sheikh time to realize that we could to a large extent enforce quarantine independently of them. A very great step in advance would have been taken and we might well rest satisfied for a time with the happy-go-lucky shore arrangements of the present day, until that lesson had been thoroughly learnt.

10. With special reference to Captain Williams' remarks in the final portion of his note (2) *re* the exemption of first-class passengers, I would be greatly interested to learn how the difficulty raised by Article 80 (1) of the Sanitary Convention of Paris of 1903 could be laid. This is no captious criticism, for it has frequently occurred to me that, if it were not for that clause, I could enforce quarantine in the peculiar local conditions of Koweit with one-tenth of the difficulties I now find myself struggling with.

11. I have no tenderness for European passengers, and would cheerfully submit to quarantine restrictions myself, but if it were possible for the local doctor to tell important Arab merchants and Sheiklings whom he knew and could recognize that they would be excused quarantine on the slight penalty of an afternoon call at the hospital for a brief medical examination, half our difficulties would be over. It would be understood that unless our requirements were complied with, the indulgence would another time be forbidden to each offender. The friendship of the Assistant Surgeon would then be a cherished boon and his influence immensely increased, and we might confidently hope to have the big men on our side instead of against us, and in Koweit only the big men count. Specially important personages might even be visited at their houses.

Inclosure 6 in No. 1.

Major Cox to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Bushire, June 7, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to revert to the subject of quarantine arrangements for Koweit.

2. In his letter of the 11th December Major Knox proposed an arrangement under which the vessels of the British India Steam Navigation Company would carry on board a guard furnished at the expense of the Government of India, by which means quarantine could be enforced, as far as these vessels were concerned, with indifference to the wishes and attitude of the Sheikh. In a letter dated the 13th December, received at the same time, the Political Agent dealt with the precautions which might be arranged on shore, and in this connection recommended the leasing of the Island of Shwaikh from the Sheikh conditionally on his agreeing to be guided by our advice in the application of quarantine measures.

The first of these proposals—as an arrangement in force for Koweit only and for the British India Steam Navigation Company's mail-steamers only—did not appear to the Residency Surgeon or myself as a satisfactory one, and our views were embodied in my letter, dated the 8th March, to the Foreign Department.

3. I now request perusal of the two further Reports which I have since received from Major Knox. In these communications he draws attention to the now unsatisfactory attitude of Sheikh Mubarak in regard to the quarantine question, and suggests that he is purposely thwarting our plans in regard to quarantine in order to compel us to give him a greater measure of assistance in resisting Turkish amenities in connection with his properties at Fao. On this latter subject I have recently addressed Government, and forwarded a copy of Sheikh Mubarak's last communication to me on the subject, and await such orders as Government may see their way to pass thereon.

4. It remains to consider what action can best be taken to bring the Sheikh to a more reasonable frame of mind in regard to his quarantine arrangements. Major Knox suggests a formal intimation to him in the terms suggested in paragraph 5 of his letter, but I am a little inclined to think that to make an intimation to him forthwith in that sense might confirm him in his obstructive attitude and perhaps produce a deadlock. At any rate, as the matter has already been in abeyance for some time owing to my absence on tour, I think that no harm will be done, pending consideration of the situation by Government, if the letter of which I inclose a copy is addressed by me to Sheikh Mubarak, and I am therefore taking that course. If this reply is not satisfactory, then I do not see what else we can do but try the effect of arranging that the British India Steam Navigation Company and the Bombay-Persian Line should suspend

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the visits of their steamers to Koweit for two or three months. It is just possible that the Hamburg-America ships might make use of the opening to send their vessels to Koweit; but if they did, the calls of British steamers could be renewed.

Inclosure 7 in No. 1.

Major Cox to Sheikh Mubarak-us-Subah.

(After compliments.) *Bushire, June 7, 1908.*

I MUCH regret that, owing to absence on tour during May, I was unable to renew my personal congratulations in connection with the marriage ceremonies in your esteemed family which have lately been concluded. I have heard with interest about them from Major Knox since my return, and also of the visit of his Excellency the Admiral, which I am sure was a source of pleasure to you and to him.

I am writing to you now especially regarding the question of quarantine at Koweit. Recent reports show that even the simple measures hitherto imposed with your concurrence to safeguard your port are now discontinued by your orders, and that your subjects hold communication with the ships just as they please.

I think perhaps you have not fully understood the position as regards this matter of quarantine.

It is not to gratify their own pleasure that my Government have appointed a doctor at Koweit and placed him at your service for quarantine work. Their object in sending him is to assist you, firstly, to keep your port clear of infection and also in order not to give the nations grounds for saying that while all necessary measures are taken at Muscat, Bahrein, Bushire, and Mohammerah to prevent the entry of infection, only Koweit remains without any proper system, and that thereby danger results to Mesopotamia and to Europe.

Your wise rule has so promoted the prosperity and advance of Koweit in other ways that you would assuredly be making a great mistake to be backward in this matter, which is of the utmost importance not only to yourself but also to your neighbours; and especially now that ocean-going steamers visit your port it is not possible, if you wish them to continue doing so that you can dispense with all preventive measures against the entry of disease.

I beg you to take the whole matter again into consideration, and to reinstitute adequate measures in communication with the Political Agent, so that I can inform Government and they will be freed from anxiety. Otherwise they will feel that the trouble and expense which they incur in order to help you in this matter is thrown away, and that in spite of it the health of your port and of steamers visiting it is a matter of indifference to you and a source of complaint to others.

Believe me it is altogether against your best interests that such an idea should endure, and I look forward to receiving an early assurance from you in reply to this letter that you will reinstitute precautionary measures both against ships in harbour and passengers ashore. This is what had to be explained. May you be preserved and salaams.

Inclosure 8 in No. 1.

Major Knox to Major Cox.

Koweit, April 15, 1908.

IN continuation of correspondence ending with my letter dated the 3rd April, 1908, I have the honour to inform you that, on the 14th April, the Assistant Surgeon came to me and informed me that, on his usual visit to the Sheikh to take instructions as to quarantine measures, the Sheikh had informed him that, in consequence of the complaints of his subjects, he had decided not to detain passengers in quarantine. The Assistant Surgeon asked for instructions.

2. I informed the Assistant Surgeon that, if matters had been correctly represented, nothing remained except to report the matter to higher authority; but as I had already previously arranged for an interview that same afternoon, I would raise the question and inform him what was eventually decided upon.

3. I visited the Sheikh at 11 o'clock, Arabic time, and he then told me that, in consequence of the complaints of his subjects and the healthy state of the ship and the

six days' passage from Bombay, he had decided not to detain passengers apparently healthy. I then said that I presumed that he did not wish the Assistant Surgeon to visit the steamer. The Sheikh replied that, on the contrary, he attached considerable importance to the medical inspection of the passengers and that his servant would also see to the disembarkation of passengers and that any found sick by the Assistant Surgeon would be detained until the Assistant Surgeon pronounced that they could be released without danger.

4. The question of Arabs from the town boarding the steamer did not occur to me at the time, and I contented myself with saying to the Sheikh that I had addressed to him at considerable length the arguments for the enforcement of the Paris Convention of 1903 and that I would not trouble him by repeating myself. He knew the dangers perfectly. While I could not express an approval of the new measures, he might depend on our co-operating loyally with him to assist him in carrying out the modified form of quarantine imposed by him.

5. On my return I sent for the Assistant Surgeon and explained the position to him and directed him to attend the Sheikh next morning and refer to him the point about the persons from the shore who, in defiance of the Sheikh's strict prohibition, boarded the steamer. I told him to tell the Sheikh that, as no doubt he was aware, at the last visit of the fast mail no fewer than twenty-five persons were caught doing this. I told him to suggest that such disobedient persons should be detained the full period of quarantine and that their punishment in addition would be advisable, as, from a political point of view, it was extremely important that strangers should not be able to report that no quarantine restrictions were observed by the Koweit people.

6. I learn this morning from the Assistant Surgeon that the Sheikh at least verbally expressed his full concurrence with my view and sent me a message of assurance that, from this point of view at least, there would be no complaint and that all persons boarding the steamer, in defiance of his prohibition, should undoubtedly be detained the full period of quarantine.

7. In due course I shall have the honour to send you the Assistant Surgeon's report on how quarantine measures are carried out at this visit of the fast mail.

Inclosure 9 in No. 1.

Major Knox to Major Cox.

(Confidential.) *Koweit, April* 22, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the report of the Assistant Surgeon with reference to his quarantine duties on board steam-ship "Kola" when she called at this port last Thursday.

2. I myself went to the steamer and am in a position to support the Assistant Surgeon's statement of the difficulties he met with in attempting to enforce even the mild and modified system of quarantine imposed by Sheikh Mubarak. No Koweit official took the smallest interest in the proceedings. Boats of all kinds were alongside the steamer before the doctor's boat or the Sheikh's customs boat reached and the steamer was freely boarded by all and sundry, including, to my amazement, the nakhoda of my own jolly boat. This offender was promptly and speedily dealt with, and I think that it is extremely unlikely that any of my people will offend again.

3. When I tried to get hold of the Sheikh's servant, who was supposed to be accompanying the Assistant Surgeon, the Assistant Surgeon informed me that he was not to be found.

4. I venture to think that it now becomes a matter for serious consideration whether our medical officer should be permitted any longer to participate in this farce, which is only calculated to bring him into contempt and is utterly futile, both from a medical and political point of view.

5. I would, therefore, recommend that I should be instructed to inform the Sheikh that it seems perfectly clear that he has no serious intention to enforce quarantine, that we decline to allow our officials to be exposed any longer to ridicule, and that the Government of India cannot permit Koweit to defy the world in general; that it will shortly formulate proposals for a proper system of quarantine to be managed by its own officers and that in the meanwhile fast mails will no longer call at Koweit.

6. The Political Agent's own mail bag with his household and British subjects' letters could be sent to Fao and inward letters received from there, and it would be as

well if I received instructions to delay the issue of all other Koweit letters until the arrival of the following slow mail.

7. It is with extreme reluctance and regret that I formulate these proposals, for I have tried without intermission to induce Koweit, both its Sheikh and people, to adopt the only reasonable attitude in this matter and enforce, of themselves, a system of quarantine, guided by proper medical advice. Some progress is made and then we find matters worse than before.

8. Since the above paragraphs were drafted, Sheikh Mubarak has returned from Failiya and, in accordance with custom, I went on the 22nd instant and paid the usual visit of welcome on his return. The talk drifted on to quarantine matters, and I pointed out to the Sheikh how his orders were being disobeyed. The Sheikh, with a frankness to which, from him, I am little accustomed, said that his orders would not be disobeyed, but pointed out that, while we were constantly pressing our own demands upon him, we allowed his interests in Fao to be completely neglected.

9. No clearer intimation could possibly be given that he was deliberately thwarting our plans to compel us to fall in with his views regarding his Fao properties. He said that he held a paper from us to say that they were also under our protection, but I have no definite knowledge of the paper to which he alludes.

10. The Sheikh appears to wish for the appointment of a Commission, headed by his Excellency the Wali, on which Bussorah land-owners should be strongly represented (he specially mentions the Nakib of Bussorah), and he also desires the attendance of a Representative on the part of the British Government. He says that he objects to the deputation of underlings whose one object is to fill their own purses. There is, I think, no doubt that such a Commission, if the Turkish authorities would consent to it, would do a great deal towards bringing these obscure squabbles into the light of day and would form a valuable precedent for the future.

11. This intention of the Sheikh to thwart our plans and interests in Koweit until we show more activity in Fao was expressed with the utmost good nature, but there is no doubt that it is seriously meant, and indications of his putting his intention into execution are not wanting. Quarantine is only one of the ways in which he seeks to express his dissatisfaction. The lease of the Agency premises and the additional plot, property of the late Mubarak-bin-Zaid, are hanging fire, and the results of some rather acrimonious discussions are not yet ripe for report.

Inclosure 10 in No. 1.

Quarantine Report, dated April 16, 1908.

STEAM-SHIP "Kola" arrived here to-day at about 6 P.M. She had forty-one passengers on board for Koweit, twenty-six from Bombay, and the rest from other Gulf ports. One was a second-class passenger of the name of Mr. Hormuzion, and the rest were deck passengers.

The yellow quarantine flag was seen flying all the time on the steam-ship.

Sheikh Mubarak was seen as usual regarding arrangements to be made for the observation of quarantine. This time he gave me verbal instructions to examine all passengers on board the steam-ship and to let go those who were found healthy, and to detain in quarantine such as were found to be sick. People from the shore, who boarded the ship, were to be detained in quarantine up to the proper time, according to instructions.

The difficulty of getting the passengers together on board the ship for examination was previously pointed out by me. I went on board the ship as usual and requested the authorities of the ship to get all the passengers together for examination, but they failed to do so in spite of their best efforts. The guard that used to accompany me since the last two months was absent this time. Under the circumstances, therefore, I examined as many passengers as were presented to me for examination by the authorities of the ship. In all twenty-six passengers were examined by me in this way, and the rest went away without examination.

I went at the proper time to examine such persons from the shore as had boarded the steam-ship. I was informed by Mr. Abdul Mohsin that, as he did not see such persons, he could not detain them in quarantine.

Inclosure 11 in No. 1.

Major Cox to Government of India.

Shiraz, August 10, 1908.

IN continuation of the correspondence ending with my letter dated the 7th June, I have the honour to forward copies of reports from the Political Agent, Koweit, on the subject of the quarantine arrangements connected with that port.

2. In the passage marked in his letter to me dated the 14th June, Sheikh Mubarak finds it convenient to put into the mouths of the "princes" of Central Arabia the expression of sentiments with which he himself is imbued in regard to quarantine, and practically informs us that if we do not co-operate with him in the matter of his Fao properties, we must not expect him to defer to our wishes in regard to quarantine administration. While it is quite possible that there is a measure of truth in the assertion that he has to meet frequent demurs on the part of the Sheikhs of the interior, whose families or followers are subjected to quarantine detention on arrival at Koweit, his statements in this regard are doubtless much exaggerated.

3. As the Sheikh (perhaps as Major Knox suggests, in order to forestall an intimation to that effect from ourselves) has spontaneously asked the British India Steam Navigation Company to cease booking passengers to Koweit by the fast mail steamers, no need for any emergent action on our part seems to exist, and until the political side of the question is decided, the Residency Surgeon finds difficulty in making revised suggestions from a medical point of view.

Politically speaking, the extent to which Sheikh Mubarak is likely to be guided by our advice in this matter in the near future seems to depend chiefly on the measure of assistance which we decide to give him in connection with his Fao properties, and I can only suggest with much respect that both questions be considered simultaneously in their bearing upon one another.

Meanwhile, as there is happily no epidemic in the Gulf itself, and as the slow mails are out of quarantine before they reach Koweit, perhaps the Sheikh's solution of the difficulty will be held to suffice for the time being, unsatisfactory though his attitude undoubtedly is.

I am asking the First Assistant to confer with the Bushire Agent of the British India Steam Navigation Company with a view to his instructing Commanders of fast mail steamers proceeding to Koweit to assist the Political Agent by taking the necessary steps for preventing persons from the shore boarding their ships while in harbour.

Inclosure 12 in No. 1.

Major Knox to Major Cox.

Koweit, June 24, 1908.

IN reply to your letter dated the 7th June, 1908, I have the honour to report that the letter inclosed therein dated the 7th June, 1908, was duly delivered to the Sheikh.

2. I have now the honour to inclose his reply, with translation in duplicate, and one inclosure, the copy of a letter dated the 21st April, 1899, and its translation.

3. Another inclosure to Sheikh Mubarak's present letter forms Appendix (B) to my Report, forwarded with my Confidential letter dated the 23rd June, 1908, in conjunction with which I would beg that the present letter received from Sheikh Mubarak may be read.

Inclosure 13 in No. 1.

Sheikh Mubarak-us-Subah to Major Cox.

[A reply to Residency letter dated June 7, 1908.]

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) 14*th Jamadi-al-Awwal*, 1326 H. (*June* 14, 1908).

IT is with the hand of friendship I have received your letter dated the 7th Jamadi al-Awwal, 1326 H, and what you ordered was made known—the expression of your sorrow at your not being able to be present at the assembly of the marriage night of our son

Hamad because of your absence in the month of May—and we were still more sorry at wanting your presence, which would have been a reason for increase in our rejoicings and perfecting our joy, and we were proud and honoured in the presence of his Excellency the Naval Commander-in-chief, and we obtained perfect joy from his visit to our town, which is to be considered the town of Government, and from the friendship of Major Knox, &c., and likewise his friendship with my brother Mo'iz-as-Sultana, Sardar Arfa', the Sheikh Khazal Khan, when he honoured our town, and altogether we were grateful to the presence of Major Knox, &c., for his friendship, and his reckoning our house to be the house of the Government; and I am proud in this reckoning, and certainly your Honour believes in my friendship and love towards the precious Imperial English Government and obedience to its lofty commands and the facilities which I procure for the Consul who is with us in everything that he demands from me, according to the order of Government, in his journeys in the Arabian Peninsula, whether it may be to Anta'a, which is near Al Ahsa, and the place of settling of the tribes of Al Ahsa, and I cause to go with him the Chiefs of the tribes aforesaid in his service, or it may be to Al Hafar, which is the boundary between us and Nejd, and I cause to go with the Consul the Amirs of the Arabs in his service, and it may be to Bussorah; on the desert road my servants are in his service, and from these facilities which I grant; I have seen opposition from the Turks and universal injury to my property in Fao which is the livelihood of the family of Subah, all of them. The Turks have destroyed it. And if matters remain in this opposition, we shall abandon it (viz., the land), and also before this, two years ago, my clerks were driven out from my house, and my property at Fao and 6,000 maunds of my dates were destroyed, and worse than the destruction was the driving out of my clerks before all people and the injury to my honour, and all that which happened to my property before I have placed it, and what has happened now I have also placed it before your exalted Honour and before the Consul who is with us.

And, besides what they are doing to my property of injury, they have also stirred up the most corrupt of mankind, who is estimated by yourself, and others than yourself, as a noted pirate, Nagaimish, upon the boundaries between Fao and Ma'aamir, and they send their servants, the regimental officer and the regimental clerk, and the accountant of Al Ahsa, and the Kaimakam, and they are present at the boundaries, and they demand three men from Fao and three men from Ma'aamir, and three men from Fao come present, three good old men, born in Fao, and they ask them to swear about the Fao boundaries. And they stood on the creek and swore honestly that this is the boundary of Fao and Ma'aamir, and those whom Nagaimish presented by force when they ask them for their oath, they hesitate, because they are liars and not from the people of Ma'aamir, and they see the appearance of opposition of those who come from Ma'aamir, and they know that the truth is with the persons who come from the people of Fao. Then when they come back to Bussorah and their friends ask them "what do you write?" They answer: "The right is with Mubarak, but we see the intention of the Wali and we write." And, apart from that, when my servants are present, my agents in Fao, only two men and their rosaries in their hands, and when Nagaimish is present he brings with him 200 men armed with fire-arms. Now that is the limit of his power, but I have thousands, and am submissive, and try conciliatory proceedings, but those who are determined to do me injury—and the causes are evident—from the direction of the north are exciting Nagaimish, and from the south their soldiers and officials and the Wali writes to the Kaimakam, who is honour among them and under their influence and threatens him with responsibility, and he writes to them the actual state of affairs and mentions to them "Mubarak has not embanked in my days, and he has no unreclaimed lands to embank. This is in my days, and the questioning is from the people who have information that these embankments are of old time and they are always repairing from it." And the Wali is bent on an injury, and does not accept the report of the Kaimakam, and has destroyed my property, and I ask for pity from your high position that they should treat me with justice, and that they should send from the people of Bussorah persons who are under their influence like the Nakib of the Sherifs of Bussorah and Mahmud Pasha, the Wakil-i-Sannia, and the people like them that they may see and I will accept. And I, my first Treaty with the Government, my first conditions were the preservation of my property, and they gave me an order for that from your predecessor present with me and its copy with you. That is not for the protection of Koweit. The matter of Koweit is to me a small affair. Its people will defend it somehow or another. My only object is the protection of my property and my honour. It is not a question of covetousness. I have plenty of wealth, and, sitting down, I see neglect on your part.

And I and my property and my good name and my honour are entering into the protection of the precious Imperial English Government, and, in spite of all these troubles which I see from the Turks, I am still patient and following your orders, which I shall perform whether in quarantine or other ways. And your lofty presence ordered that the quarantine has been arranged in Muscat and Bahrein. I would present to your Highness, although that is an evident matter, which you know, but for the manifestation of the position I do not resemble my brothers, the Amir of Muscat and the Amir of Bahrein. For the aforesaid, passengers do not go to them in the mails except by chance from among the people of their towns. I am the Ruler of Koweit and the whole of the Arabian Peninsula, and in it many great Princes, under my orders and intrusting their hands to me, and those who come from India and other places, are not the people of Koweit, but of all the tribes and of all the people of Nejd, and, as soon as there was the name of the quarantine I began to content them, and the Princes addressed me about their families and their dependants and followers, who come in the mail-steamers, why I was stopping them in the harbour when they were coming from a long journey, and those awaiting from a distant road and stopping them that they should not see them nor greet them. Then I content them and answer them that this is the order of the Government. They answer, "No matter! that is, let the order of the Government proceed for separating us and we are Islam. We say what God wills, will be, and what He does not wish, will not be. And we were vexed by the quarantine, and it does not repel. God is the repeller. And we see your servants who are in your possessions at Fao flying away from the Turkish oppression, and they in your assembly inform us of all that is going on against (your) property."

"Also, in our places, reaches us news of all that goes on against you from the injuries inflicted by the Turks, especially against your Fao property. Now we will not consent to these troubles which are against Shara', and we will not agree about you that you should be patient under these troubles which are happening against your property. Then if this Government whom you and we are following—at your desire expressed to us—will repel from your property, then it is due from you that you conciliate them in such a way as may not injure. Then if we see that, then we shall know that your opinion has hit the mark. But if the Turks go on in this way in the injury of your property without right, and there is no stopping of that, enough, we have not seen a place for protection. We do not want protection."

Now, the intention is that I should make plain the circumstances, and, in spite of all this, I am under your orders. And the passengers who come in the mail-boats, there will be from the people of Koweit one in ten and nine from the families of the tribes and people of Nejd and the Princes, whose followers will come in the mail-steamers in their address to me, they have the right on their side against me, because I also have seen your carelessness about the protection of my property for the repelling from it in the path of right and the present customs in Bussorah (apparently Turkish vexations and misrule). And, in spite of all this, I am at your orders, if you order me to be patient under the injury to my property and the objections urged by the Arab Princes against me, then I, according to my custom, will rest patient under orders, but I say: "This is against your well known and proved ray and your protection to every one who flees for shelter to your shadow." Now I and my name and property are under your protection and under your orders. Then it was incumbent on me to present the circumstances. Your Consul, who is in Bussorah, heard from the Wali that this land which Mubarak has inclosed came out of the river. Then what comes out of the river there is in it to the Government a right. Now their fort has been built twenty-two years from its commencement, and the mud which they have used to embank is from this place, and also this embankment, which I inclosed for the protection of my property, is fourteen years old, and yearly I repair it and others not less than three or four times. And their officials were looking on at it and did not molest me. Then, if it is a fact that there is in my possession land coming out from the river, it is necessary that they should deal with me according to the rules and precedents, as they do with others, according to the agreements of the assembly of the Idara, who will make me owner of the land in the change of records. The ownership in the change of records is to the owner of the lands, whether myself or another.

Then I demand right, like all the Bussorah proprietors, that they should deal with me, by sending persons of Bussorah, as I have mentioned in my Petition above, who know about properties and their present day rules, and that they should see this land which they are quarrelling with me about, and I will abide by whatever these people may say, after they see it. And I also will make present with them whomsoever you may appoint, the Consul at Bussorah or another, that he may be present. Then that is

what is incumbent upon you that you should watch over my rights. Otherwise, if I have no right, at that time, I will be content. Also the Princes who are now objecting against me, when they have seen assistance from you, in the protection of my rights, they also will be content and will not object against me. And this contradiction is only from the Wali of Bussorah, and your Government has ordered that they sent the doctor especially on account of quarantine, and what we know is that the doctor was sent by the Government out of pity for the comfort of the sick of the people. This is according to our request when we asked for the doctor. Then, when it is incumbent on us to establish an officer of quarantine, we will appoint him from one of our followers, and he will refer to the doctor. This was what was necessary. We hope for your assistance, and may you remain, &c.

(Seal of Sheikh Mubarak.)

The boundaries of our property in Fao: west, the Khor Abdulla; north-west, the creek dividing between our property and Ma'amir, the property inherited from Nasir Pasha-as-Sadun; and east, the Shatt-al-Arab; and south, the sea, as is evident from the official deed, confirmed before the Consul of the precious Imperial English Government in Bussorah (Moharram ?), under date the 14th Tamuz, 1904, and the copy of that deed we have given to your presence before this. You will look over the contents thereof. Then how do they quarrel with me over my property.

True translation.

(Signed) S. G. KNOX, *Major*,
Political Agent, Koweit.

Inclosure 14 in No. 1.

Colonel Meade to Sheikh Mubarak.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *April* 21, 1899.

WE inform your honour that we rejoiced at the obtaining of speech with you by the means of Aga Muhammad Rahim-bin'Abd-un-Nabi Safar, that his Excellency the Viceroy of India has ratified the Preliminary Agreement which we completed together at the time of my coming to Koweit, and we have sent you a copy of it with this letter, and we have made manifest the troubles in which you are, with reference to your date-gardens that are in the direction of Fao, and the precious British Great Government has given me permission that we should give hope to you and your brothers, and the Government will do what it can for your protection and the protection of your brothers in the matter of your properties in the direction of Fao. Then any encroachment that may happen to these properties you will inform us about it. And we have also received permission that we should pay to your honour the sum of 15,000 sicca rupees, and we shall be pleased to send them to your honour, in the manner that may be most suitable and convenient to your honour and these Articles, it is necessary that they should be secret, and our heart always rejoices at hearing joyful news of you. If it is possible to your honour, you will inform us by the manner that will not be too patent, and let your heart remain satisfied that the pity of the precious Imperial English Government has been obtained by your honour, and that your honour may remain firm in the perfect friendship in the Treaty into which you have entered, and, as long as your honour remains in this fashion, you may rely on the clemency of the great British Government. Usual ending.

True translation,

(Signed) S. G. KNOX, *Major*,
Political Agent, Koweit.

Inclosure 15 in No. 1.

Major Knox to Major Cox.

(Confidential.) *Koweit, June* 28, 1908.

I HAVE the honour, in continuation of my letter dated the 23rd June, 1908, to report the subsequent history of the visit of the steam-ship "Kasura" to this port on Thursday morning last.

2. Shortly after the agent of Messrs. Gray Paul and Co. had received intimation, sent by me, of the latest orders of the Sheikh on the quarantine question, he came to me and asked for permission to try and persuade the Sheikh to alter his decision with reference to this fast mail and the next. I was unable to approve this course, as the Sheikh knew perfectly well what he was doing, and that he is deliberately thwarting us in our proposals to establish quarantine, and trying to convince us that Koweit can do perfectly well without the Steam-ship Companies. Anything, therefore, that would persuade him that we were inconvenienced by his action would, I judged, only strengthen his determination. I saw no objection, however, to his asking the Sheikh to provide the usual boats for conveyance of the passengers, as though the agent had no information of the Sheikh's most recent orders, and accepting the Sheikh's decision on the point whatever it might be.

3. The agent returned to me on Wednesday afternoon with the news that the Sheikh had, in his presence, ordered four passenger boats to proceed to the mail steamer. In the circumstances, I saw no reason whatever to interfere or remonstrate, and, indeed, my first notion was that the Assistant Surgeon had, in some way or other, managed to misunderstand the Sheikh's orders.

4. I made arrangements to proceed myself to the steamer to watch events, and, in view of the conflicting reports that I had received as regards the imposition of quarantine, I saw no necessity to place myself under any restrictions in that respect. My boat was the first to arrive, and I remained on the steamer for some considerable time, watched the Sheikh's customs officer, and, in fact, anybody who pleased, board the steamer and the passengers with their luggage being disembarked. The steamer arrived about twenty minutes after midnight, and left at 3 A.M., and was on the move before I reached the shore.

5. In the afternoon on Friday I visited the Sheikh; I quite expected, as I have said above, that I should find that the Sheikh's instructions to the Assistant Surgeon had been misunderstood. I opened the conversation by remarking that I should be glad if the Sheikh would be so good as to tell me the tenour of his instructions to the Assistant Surgeon which had astonished me considerably. The Sheikh asked me what the Assistant Surgeon had reported, and I told him the substance of the Report that I had the honour to submit to you with my letter quoted above. The Sheikh replied that the Assistant Surgeon's Report was correct in every particular, and added that he had written to the steamer authorities in Bombay to say that quarantine was imposed on all fast mail steamers, and that, therefore, they should no longer book passengers to Koweit by those steamers.

6. I remarked that the passengers from this fast mail had been landed, and had not gone to Bussorah. The Sheikh began to tell me that they had not been landed, when I cut him short by remarking that I was on the steamer and saw them being disembarked. He then said that it was not in his boats, and I did not think it worth while to point out that there were only three boats alongside the steamer, while I was there; that one of these was my own, which naturally carried no passengers, and that the first boat after mine into which I saw a number of Indian passengers being disembarked had carried one of his principal customs officers to the steamer. The Sheikh then added that he detained all the passengers until noon on Thursday in the boat harbour. As the passengers for the most part belonged to a gang of Indian boatmen who have come to look after a wrecked dinghy, subsequent inquiries have served to confirm my first impression that this statement was utterly false. The passengers were seen by two natives of India in a coffee-shop in the bazaar early on Thursday.

7. The Sheikh then began to lay down his views about quarantine generally, and brought out the fatalistic saying that he had already quoted in his letter to your address forwarded with my letter, dated the 24th June, 1908, "Mash'Allah yakun wa ma lam usha' lam yakun." I countered with the equally well-known Mahommedan tradition which I described as the father of all quarantine theories "To the place in which there is sickness, go not; and, if sickness comes upon you, flee not." I showed the Sheikh that, in strict obedience to pure Mahommedan tradition, no sound Mahommedan should visit either Bombay or Kurrachee, and that our quarantine was merely an endeavour to carry out the spirit of that tradition, while not observing, in all its destructive strictness, the letter.

8. The Sheikh replied admitting the tradition that, on the whole, he preferred the letter, and that he and his people would be inclined to do without Bombay and Kurrachee altogether, if going to these places meant Rules and Regulations. They were all for freedom, a truly audacious statement from such a despot. He then asked about the slow mails, and I said that it seemed, so far as I had seen, unnecessary to place any

restrictions on them, as it was barely possible for passengers to land before noon on Thursdays, by which time they would have completed the five days' passage from the last infected port, but that, if the Sheikh wished, they should, in the strict interpretation of the Paris Convention, be detained until noon and examined by a competent medical officer; that, in the event of sickness at Behrein or Bushire, a longer detention would be necessary. The Sheikh then said that, if quarantine was essential, they would do without the slow steamers also.

9. I also asked what would be done to prevent people from the shore landing on ships under quarantine, and the Sheikh said that he would not send boats, and that we could arrange to get our post and transact our business, and that his own people and boats would not go to the mail boat. I stated that, of course, we should strictly observe the Sheikh's orders and transact our business from the ladder, and the Sheikh replied that we were at perfect liberty to act in any manner that we thought fit.

10. I should like to state that, however acrimonious this discussion may appear on paper, nothing could exceed the pleasant good humour and politeness with which it was discussed. The Sheikh's manner was perfect, and I did my best to respond.

11. It is evident, I venture to think, that the Sheikh is trying to forestall us in our threat to discontinue steamers coming to Koweit by showing that he is in no need of steamers and that his one notion of quarantine is to make it useless for the steamers, to come here, if we determine to establish quarantine. I fear that, short of the course that I had the honour to propose in paragraph 5 of my letter, dated the 22nd April, 1908—and there is no disguising the probability that it might be necessary to back our proposals for quarantine with a show of force—the only feasible method of inducing the Sheikh to establish quarantine is, as foreshadowed in your letter, dated the 7th June, to the address of the Foreign Secretary, to show him that we are really in earnest and that, until he conforms to civilized methods of administration, we intend to stop all steamer communication with Koweit. A visit from one of the Hamburg-Amerika liners would seem to be a peculiarly appropriate occasion for our show of force. But from my limited and local point of view, with the utmost respect, I regard with grave apprehension the barest possibility of our steamers returning ignominiously in the tail of the Hamburg-Amerika. The effect on local opinion would be disastrous and a perfect triumph for Sheikh Mubarak.

Inclosure 16 in No. 1.

Major Knox to Major Cox.

Koweit, July 12, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copies of correspondence showing how from a quarantine point of view, the visit of the steam-ship "Dumra" to this port was dealt with.

2. I may add that the British India Steam Navigation Company's agent also received intimation from the Sheikh that boats would not be sent to bring passengers to the shore.

3. It is clear that the Sheikh has no intention of enforcing quarantine of any kind, and that the only action he has taken, if indeed he has done so (for it is now impossible for me to place any reliance whatever on any of his statements in regard to quarantine) has been to write to the British India Company to order (!) them not to send passengers to Koweit by the fast mail, thereby deliberately attempting to inflict direct loss on a British Company.

4. He aggravates this contumacy by open and shameless duplicity, as it is impossible to believe that the passengers are brought ashore in defiance of his instructions, and his officers, in reply to Captain Cole's and the Assistant Surgeon's remonstrances, stated clearly that they had received no orders whatever from the Sheikh on the subject.

Inclosure 17 in No. 1.

Major Knox to Commanding Officer of Steam-ship "Dumra."

Koweit, July 8, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Sheikh of Koweit has ordered that any passengers that you may have for Koweit will not be allowed to disembark here but that they must be overcarried to other ports, preferably Fao, Mohammerah, or Bussorah

2. I shall be obliged if you will kindly render any assistance possible to the Sheikh's men in enforcing the Sheikh's orders, and also inform the Quarantine Medical Officer whether, to the best of your knowledge and belief, any passengers have managed to disembark at Koweit.

3. The Sheikh further desires that no persons except intending passengers be allowed to board the steamer, the Quarantine Officer of course being an exception as usual.

Inclosure 18 in No. 1.

Commanding Officer of Steam-ship "Dumra" to Major Knox.

July 8, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 8th July, 1908.

Three passengers were booked for Koweit and disembarked before the arrival of the Quarantine Officer and the Sheikh's man. I requested the Sheikh's man to have the passengers sent on board again, but he said he could not do so.

Inclosure 19 in No. 1.

Quarantine Report.

STEAM-SHIP "Dumra" arrived here yesterday evening at about 8 P.M.

I saw Sheikh Mubarak on Tuesday, the 7th instant, to receive instructions from him regarding quarantine. He said that there was to be quarantine in Koweit, the passengers for Koweit would not be allowed to land in Koweit, but would be taken to Bussorah or Mohammerah. He also said that there was no necessity for me to go on board the ship, and that intimation had been already sent to Bombay about two weeks ago that passengers coming by the fast mail would not be allowed to land in Koweit, but would be taken to Mohammerah or Bussorah instead.

Kurrachee was declared to be an unclean port. Under instructions from the Political Agent, I went on board the ship, and found that the passengers for Koweit were taken in the Sheikh's boat to be landed on shore. I informed Captain Cole, the commander of the vessel that recent instructions from the Sheikh were to the effect that passengers for Koweit should not be allowed to land in Koweit, but should be taken to Mohammerah or Bussorah instead. The commander of the vessel told me that he could not help it, as the Sheikh's men had taken them in their boat. He said that if it was the Sheikh's order not to allow the passengers to land in Koweit, his own men ought not to have taken the passengers in their boat to land them on shore.

Some people from the shore were seen to have boarded the steamer, and did not observe quarantine restrictions.

(Signed) RUSTOMJI ARDESHIR,
Quarantine Medical Officer, Koweit.

Koweit, July 9, 1908.

Inclosure 20 in No. 1.

Government of India to Viscount Morley.

(Secret.)

My Lord, *Simla, September* 10, 1908.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram, dated the 12th June, 1908, we have the honour to forward the accompanying copies of correspondence containing further information on the subject of the complaint of the Sheikh of Koweit of Turkish encroachments on his properties at Fao.

2. Although it is possible that the Sheikh will not succeed in convincing the Turkish authorities, we agree with Major Cox that it is most desirable on political grounds that a recommendation should be made to the Porte to appoint a Committee composed of persons agreeable to the parties for the final settlement of the matters in dispute.

It would also be an advantage if, as Major Cox proposes, a British officer were permitted to be present. If His Majesty's Government are able to make such a recommendation, we should suggest that the British Consul at Bussorah be nominated for the purpose.

We have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.
KITCHENER.
H. ERLE RICHARDS.
C. H. SCOTT.
H. ADAMSON.
J. O. MILLER.
W. L. HARVEY.
J. S. MESTON.

Inclosure 21 in No. 1.

Major Cox to Government of India.

Shiraz, August 10, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to lay before Government the Report called for in Foreign Department telegram, dated the 16th June, 1908.

A good deal of correspondence has since passed on the subject with the Political Agent, Koweit, the progress of which has caused some unavoidable delay in the submission of my reply.

2. In order the better to explain the present position I venture to retrace a few steps on the record.

His Majesty's Secretary of State, in his telegram of the 12th June, inquired how the settlement reported in my telegram of the 10th March had been upset. My telegraphic report of that date was based on Major Knox' letter received on the 9th March, informing me that Sheikh Mubarak had spontaneously intimated that the trouble appeared to be over for the time, as he had explained the circumstances to the Wali, and a Turkish Commission had investigated the question and decided that the embankments need not be interfered with. The Wali, nevertheless, was said to have expressed the view that they appeared to obstruct the outlook from the fort, and that the repair of them had better not be continued.

3. On the 3rd March Major Knox wrote that Sheikh Mubarak was very full of his troubles at Fao, and asked that he or I or Consul Crow should visit the spot and thrash out the whole matter, and if possible have a proper sketch made of the property.

Further, Mr. Lyle, the British India Steam Navigation Company's agent at Bussorah, and an old friend of Sheikh Mubarak, who visited Koweit about then, informed the Political Agent that it was evident from the Sheikh's confidences to him, that he was very much exercised in regard to this question, and did not think that he was receiving from us the measure of assistance to which he felt himself entitled.

I visited Koweit a few days later, and Sheikh Mubarak, at my interviews with him, repeated his grievances with insistence. I therefore dispatched to Government my telegram dated the 10th April, amplified on the 13th idem by Residency telegram No. 314.

Writing on the 9th April the Political Agent forwarded Sheikh Mubarak's letter of same date, and expressed the hope that it would be possible for us to do something for the Sheikh, as he evidently had the matter far more at heart than any other of the current questions affecting his territorial rights *vis-à-vis* the Porte.

4. The above résumé brings me to Foreign Department telegram of the 16th June, 1908, and I now beg to inclose copies of the correspondence which has since passed between the Political Agent and myself.

It will be seen that in his letter of the 15th June Major Knox, after reporting the Sheikh's reiterated request for a Committee of Enquiry, and his undertaking to abide by its decision, suggested a visit on his own part to Bussorah. In reply he was authorized to proceed informally to Bussorah in the "Lawrence" primarily to consult His Majesty's Consul and to obtain material for full report. Before doing so he wrote twice again on the 23rd and 24th June. On the first date he submitted an *ad interim*

Report, in reply to the Secretary of State's telegram dated the 12th June, in which the Sheikh's case was again stated and his request for a Joint Committee of Inquiry repeated.

His letter of the 24th June inclosed a further communication from Sheikh Mubarak to me, in reply to my letter to him of the 7th June, in which the Sheikh clubbed the question of quarantine arrangements with that of his Fao properties, and, after detailing his grievances in the latter case, and repeating his request for a Commission of Inquiry, proceeded to discuss the quarantine question in terms clearly intended to signify that unless we co-operated in the Fao matter he would not do so in regard to quarantine.

On the 17th July Major Knox reported the details of his visit to Bussorah, which may be allowed to speak for themselves. On the 20th July, after paying a passing visit to Fao on his return journey, Major Knox again reported.

The informal nature of this visit did not, of course, admit of his making any exhaustive inquiry into the rights of the case, but such information as he was able to pick up sent him away with impressions unmistakably unfavourable to Sheikh Mubarak's claims.

5. It will have been noticed that there are two separate claims at present under dispute, one with the Turkish military authorities, regarding that portion of the property contiguous to the periscope of the Fao Fort, and involving the right of riparian reclamation; the other concerning the ownership of a piece of valuable ground at the northern extremity of the Sheikh's estate.

In regard to the former question Major Knox sympathises with the attitude of the Turkish military authorities, and considers that they had good reason for destroying the Sheikh's dam.

Of the second claim he writes: "It is quite a question whether Sheikh Mubarak has or has not committed a serious aggression, involving valuable property to the north of his estates. In this matter we have no possible jurisdiction or pretext for interference, and the matter appears one entirely for the Turkish Courts to settle."

It is quite possible that Major Knox's present estimate of the case is the correct one, but it seems to me that these claims can hardly be treated by us from an entirely detached point of view, and I doubt the expediency of our washing our hands of the matter on the strength of the impressions now formed by him. In fact he himself suggests at the close of his last communication that the execution of a careful survey and record of rights is probably the only means of laying the matter to rest. It is not clear, however, what agency he would expect to carry out these measures.

To any one perusing the whole record it must be evident that both in regard to statements of fact and expressions of view it bristles with contradictions.

In any case it is beyond dispute that the Sheikh is extremely sore in regard to the treatment he has received in the matter of his Fao properties, and it is equally beyond question that in the past he has suffered much oppression, both in connection with the protracted incarceration of his agent, Abdul Aziz-bin-Salim, and the murder of his head watchman, four years ago.

Again we have his own and the Political Agent's word for it that the matter touches the Sheikh much more closely than any of the current questions of ownership affecting other localities in his reputed territory, such as Bubiyan, Umi Kasr or Warba. It is further clear that our failure to give him the active assistance which he looks for in the present difficulty is prejudicing his attitude towards us in other important connections, *e.g.*, the quarantine and the house-rent.

That we have no jurisdiction in the matter goes without saying; nor does the Sheikh ask us to exercise any; what he has consistently pressed for is a Committee of Inquiry, by the finding of which he agrees to abide.

In spite, therefore, of the adverse conception of Sheikh Mubarak's case to which Major Knox' visit to Fao has brought him, I venture to express the hope that it may still be considered expedient as well as feasible in the interests of our general relations with Sheikh Mubarak, to endeavour to get the Porte to agree, in order to define once for all Sheikh Mubarak's precise rights and thus save themselves and us trouble in the future, to the appointment of a Committee composed of persons agreeable to both parties to investigate the Sheikh's claims exhaustively. The presence of Major Knox or His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah if not as a member of the Committee, then in order to watch the proceedings for the information of His Majesty's Government, can, I trust, be pressed for.

The above will indicate the trend of my personal views, but I realize that a great deal depends on the degree of importance which His Majesty's Government at present

attach to the maintenance of cordial relations with Sheikh Mubarak, a factor which I am not in a position to appraise.

6. In conclusion, it is perhaps unnecessary for me to remind Government, in connection with the arguments of the Turkish military authorities regarding the minimum strategical requirements of the Fao Fort, that the very existence of the said fort is a direct violation of the Treaty of Erzeroum of which Great Britain and Russia were the august witnesses and against which we have repeatedly demurred. It seems important not to lose sight of this fact at the present juncture and our existing relations with Russia may suggest means of making convenient use of the lever in order to strengthen our representations. It is possible that a friendly reminder of the status or want of status of the Fao Fort might incline the Porte to treat Mubarak with some indulgence in the present dispute in order to avoid drawing inconvenient attention to the question of their Fao fortifications generally.

P.S.—After the above letter was dispatched from Shiraz another letter (dated the 1st August, 1908) was received from Major Knox giving cover to a letter from His Majesty's Consul, Bussorah. A copy of the latter letter is attached, for the information of the Government of India, under telegraphic instructions from the Resident. The position of affairs is in no way altered by these letters.

Inclosure 22 in No. 1.

First Assistant Resident, Persian Gulf, to Major Knox.

June 16, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of the marginally-noted telegram[1] and to request that you will furnish me with the particulars asked for. My telegram No. 207, referred to, was dispatched on receipt of your letter No. 95 of March 1908, and my letter No. 1214, on receipt of the correspondence forwarded under your demi-official letter of the 8th April, 1908. My letter No. 1214 simply forwarded Sheikh Mubarak's letter dated the 7th Rabi I, 1326 (8th April, 1908) to the Government of India.

Inclosure 23 in No. 1.

Major Knox to Major Cox.

(Confidential.) *Kôweit, June* 15, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Sheikh Mubarak has, at two interviews lately, laid great stress on the question of his Fao estates, and I believe contemplates a strong reference on the subject in reply to your letter *re* quarantine forwarded under cover of your letter dated the 7th June, 1908.

2. The Sheikh assures me, but I find it difficult to credit his assurance, that he has been promised, before my time, protection with regard to these estates. I had told him, carefully explaining at the same time, that it was a casual reference in a private letter from Mr. Crow, that the Consul at Bussorah believed that the real obstacle to a settlement in accordance with Sheikh Mubarak's wishes is the opposition of the military officers of the Turkish Administration.

3. To combat this view, the Sheikh the other day directed his Secretary, Abdul Aziz, to read to me a report emanating from Bussorah which said that his Excellency the Wali had been unable to obtain any reply from the Fariq either at Bussorah or Bagdad, supporting his allegations with reference to the Sheikh's alleged encroachment on the river. The Sheikh maintains that he has all the subordinate officials on his side and that his only obstacle is his Excellency who wishes to extort money from him.

4. The Sheikh's proposals appear, on the surface, eminently reasonable. He states that all he requires is an inquiry by a Representative Commission of Bussorah Notables at which he suggests that his Excellency, himself, and the Bussorah Consul should be present, either in person or by deputy. He states that he is quite ready to abide by the finding of that Commission, but that even if it decrees that the land is, as it is called, Tush, *i.e.*, reclaimed land, he claims the right enjoyed by all riparian owners to

[1] Foreign Department letter, dated June 16, 1908.

pay a fixed sum for the privilege of reclamation and to be permitted thereafter to enjoy it in peace. Sheikh Mubarak, even goes further and says that, while utterly denying the reclamation, at least within the past fourteen years, he will for the sake of peace and quietness admit, without inquiry that the land is Tash and pay the fees claimed. But he asks that this should be done speedily to avoid further injury to the land. This last was in answer to my suggestion that it would be as well to await the reply of the British Government to the representations already made by him and forwarded by yourself.

5. Considering the grave importance that the Sheikh attaches to this question, and his evident determination to put this difficulty forward as a stop to all our negotiations with him, I have the honour to propose a visit by myself, accompanied by some representative of the Sheikh, to Fao to examine the condition of the broken embankments complained of and the amount of injury likely to be caused thereby. This would, in the natural course, be followed by a visit to Bussorah, where I could, through His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, place the matter before his Excellency and endeavour to effect some sort of settlement, even if only a temporary one, pending the reconsideration of the question or, at least, obtain from his Excellency some definite statement of the reasons or regulations, owing to which his Excellency has forbidden the repair of these embankments.

6. I understand that the Royal Indian mail-steamer "Lawrence" is at present at Bussorah and would suggest that she might be employed for the purpose of the up-river trip which should not take more than a week at the outside. It is difficult to imagine that the Turkish authorities could offer any valid objection to my walking round Sheikh Mubarak's Fao properties. It would be necessary to respect the Quarantine Regulations at Fao which might cause a slight delay. Should his Excellency refuse to receive me in the company of His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, there would be no necessity for me to appear at all, and in any case I should, of course, be guided entirely by His Britannic Majesty's Consul in all communications made and the manner of making them to his Excellency.

Inclosure 24 in No. 1.

Major Cox to First Assistant Resident, Bushire.

(Telegraphic.) *Shiraz, June 29, 1908.*

M.Y message of 25th.

Please inform Knox that his visit to Bussorah would primarily be to consult colleague and obtain further material for full report.

He should not visit locality without colleague's concurrence and, if necessary, further reference by telegram.

Inclosure 25 in No. 1.

Major Knox to Major Cox.

(Confidential.) *Koweit, June 23, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 16th June, 1908, with which was forwarded Foreign Department telegram dated the 16th June, 1908, calling for a report on Sheikh Mubarak's claims in respect to alleged encroachments by Turkish soldiers on his lands at Fao.

2. That report I have now the honour to submit herewith in duplicate.

P.S.—I would ask that this letter and inclosures may be read in connection with my letter dated the 24th June, 1908, to your address.

Inclosure 26 in No. 1.

Report on the Claims of Sheikh Mubarak against the Turkish Authorities at Bussorah in respect of the alleged Encroachment by Turkish Soldiers on his Lands at Fao.

THE facts of the case, as represented by Sheikh Mubarak, are as follows:—

In the beginning of the year 1908, a Turkish corvette was sent to Fao, and the soldiers of the fort by night destroyed an embankment, inclosing a portion of Sheikh Mubarak's lands at Fao.

Various reasons have been alleged for this action, but two contradictory ones now stand out:—

(1.) That the land was newly reclaimed land. This contention is evidently implied in his Excellency the Wali of Bussorah's ambiguous letter, of which a copy and translation was forwarded with my letter, dated the 15th April, 1908, to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

(2.) That the cultivation on the land of which the embankment was broken was obstructing the view from the fort, and that a clear space of 600 metres was required all round the fort for defensive purposes. Mr. Consul Crow makes a casual reference in a private letter to me, which I quote:—

"Sorry I could not do more for Mubarak, but the military people at Constantinople are absolutely opposed to any encroachment on the perimeter of the Fao Fort. The local authorities seem well disposed to the Sheikh, though the arms traffic is a sore point, and they think he encourages it."

Sheikh Mubarak declares that the embankment in question is certainly very old, and that from the land which it protects the mud was taken to build the fort. He says that it runs in a continuation—interrupted, however, by a creek—and to the north of the fort embankment; and that, when the fort was built, he and the fort authorities combined amicably to embank or repair embankments together. He says that since that date—twenty-three years ago—he has carried out yearly, and even more, frequent repairs, as occasion demanded, to the embankment,* and his men have never been interfered with until now.

In support of this contention, he has produced copies of certain correspondence† which took place in the early part of the year between his Excellency the Wali of Bussorah and the Kaïmakam of Fao. It must be said that these do not appear to be official copies, but they were probably furnished by the Kaïmakam of Fao to the Sheikh. Sheikh Mubarak explains that certificated copies of Turkish records are not procurable. In that correspondence, the Kaïmakam corroborates the destruction by night of the embankment by Turkish soldiers—in itself a sufficiently lawless and high-handed proceeding, for which it would not perhaps be too much to demand the punishment of the officer commanding the fort—and the Sheikh's statement that the embankment is an old one. The letters of the Kaïmakam also indicate that the nearness of the cultivation to the fort is the reason why the embankment was destroyed.

A Turkish Commission, composed of the following members:—

The Commander of the Turkish corvette;
The Kaïmakam of Fao;
A Yus-bashi from Bussorah;

sat on the question. No Koweit representative was present, according to Sheikh Mubarak. The embankment had not been repaired after the damage done to them by the Turkish soldiers and have not been repaired yet. The Commission expressed the opinion that there was no necessity to interfere with the embankments, but that they obstructed the view from the fort, and that future repairs should not be executed (*vide* Political Agent's letter, dated the 3rd March, 1908, to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf).

I was surprised at the time Sheikh Mubarak informed me of the decision that he made no attempt to have this order questioned, but it would seem that the Commission were not unanimous, and that the views of the military member on the purely military

* In another letter he gives the age of the embankment at fourteen years.
† Appendix (B).

question carried the day against his two colleagues who were not disposed to agree with him. The Sheikh was apparently awaiting the end of his correspondence with his Excellency the Wali of Bussorah.

The ambiguous letter from his Excellency, already referred to above, dated the 31st March (copy and translation forwarded with my letter, dated the 15th April), seems to have aroused Sheikh Mubarak to further exertions, and he wrote asking the Political Resident to protect him in the enjoyment of his rights under date the 8th April, 1908, forwarded with my letter, dated the 15th April, 1908.

The Sheikh now seeks to upset the finding of that Commission, and to that end requires the appointment of a fresh Commission of Bussorah Notables. He suggests the following names:—

The Nakib of Bussorah;
Haji Mahmud Pasha, Wakil-i-Imlak as Sani'a;
Abad-ur-Razzak Chalabi, Rais-al-Boladiyn, and other men of their standing.

He asks that, at the sitting of the new Commission, his Excellency the Wali of Bussorah and himself should either be present or represented by deputy, and he attaches great importance to the presence of a British official, preferably the Resident in the Persian Gulf or his deputy, or His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bussorah.

He asks that the new Commission may definitely decide whether the lands of which the embankment was broken, is newly reclaimed or not?

And that a definite question may be put to the Turkish authorities "why he should not be allowed, even if the land is newly reclaimed, to pay the usual fees, like any other riparian proprietor and enjoy the land in peace, viz., by repairing his embankment?" If the question of the military safety of the fort is raised, he wishes to argue the question, to contend that the fort is safe, and to ask why the perimeter laid down in the correspondence, of which copies, apparently unofficial, with translations are attached to this report as Appendix (A), should be extended to 600 metres, depriving him of his property without his consent and without compensation.

For this reason, it would seem advisable to have a representative of the Turkish army also present at the meeting of the Commission.

In Appendix (A), the head of the military Commission, who built the fort in 1885, appears to have stated that a plot of ground, 230 metres square, was all that would be required.

The Sheikh presses for an early decision, as the delay in repair to his embankments is causing serious damage to his lands at Fao.

Further details than the above it will be impossible to procure without a visit to the spot by a British official and a survey of some kind.

Appendix (A).

Petition submitted by Abdulla-us-Subah and Mubarak-us-Subah to the Turkish Authorities at Bussorah, dated 24th Ramazan, 1303 H. (*approximate, February* 28, 1885.)

(Translation.)

To the presence of the exalted Excellency, the Wali of the precious district.

The Petition towards—

Sir,

LET it not be hidden from your Excellency that the lands of Fao are the possession of the petitioners, enjoyed of right, and we have been enjoying them from (the time of) our fathers and grandfathers, and from father to son, and we have expended on it much money and toil of body until we cultivated it and planted it, and we have not ceased up to the present day our painful labour in the work of cultivation, until there came out profit (to ourselves) and revenue to the Government. And land is, as your Highness knows, precious and expensive to its owner. And now the officials of the forts have appropriated a portion of our property referred to above, and have begun to reclaim it for the building of a fort on it, and have sent away the cultivators thence.

And since the boundaries of this land are well known that, in the direction of the sea and the river, the boundary reaches to the limit of the flow of the water, and

we have not known the amount of the surveyed land required for this work, nor the manner of its being taken from us, we have (therefore) been compelled to refer (the question).

And especially because the petitioners, from the time of our ancestors, are the servants of the most high Government (may God the Most High strengthen her), and we have not spared ready money and our bodies in her service, as the orders and grants present in our hands from the Walis of the affairs, your great predecessors, testify for us to that effect, we believe firmly that the Royal justice and lofty desires will not permit or legitimize the taking away of our possessions enjoyed by us from our hands without reason, and we believe that your clemency and your kindness will not make that lawful.

Also, thereupon, we claim and hope of your clemency the statement and manifestation of the quantity (of land) that is required for the fort from our property aforesaid, and the manner of its being taken from us, that we may be informed and may see, and in every case the order is to him who has the order.

(Signed) ABDULLA-US-SUBAH.
MUBARAK-US-SUBAH.

Ordered—

To the Assembly, dated 15th Haziran, 302.

Translation of Turkish Extract purporting to be the Order of the Assembly on the above Petition.

The Petition presented by Mubarak-us-Subah has been read and examined by us, and for an answer to it it is necessary (to know) in the first place—

What is required for the construction of the fort, and for the open space about it? and

Is the site on the bank of the river, or from the old land? and

Is it necessary or not for you to take more land from the petitioner, and, if so, how many metres?

Explain to us clearly what is required.

Dated the 8th Tamuz, 302.

To the Commission of the Fort.

The Reply is on the reverse.

The petitioners are Muhammad-us-Subah and Mubarak-us-Subah. They claim that they have enjoyed the land from their fathers and grandfathers, and have expended much money for the cultivation thereof, and because of the building of the fort their land will be damaged and they will be put to loss. That is their contention.

You have asked for a statement of the amount of land (required for) the site of the fort. Now the fort is in Fao, and there is only one place in which a fort will be built, and the embankment which we are now working at is on the bank of the river, and from the lands referred to in the Petition. The quantity (required) is in length 230 metres, and its breadth likewise, and besides that we do not require to take more land, and we shall not need to cut down date trees. And upon this give him an answer.

The signature of the head of the Commission. Binbashi.

Dated the 12th Ailul, 302.

To the best of the Undersigned's knowledge and belief, the above is a true translation, but the Turkish had to be rendered into Arabic, and then retranslated, as the Undersigned knows no Turkish.

(Signed) S. G. KNOX, *Major*,
Political Agent, Koweit.

Appendix (B.)

Answer of the Kaïmakam at Fao to the Questions of the Waliyat, dated 1st Nissan, 324.

(Translation.)

The arrival with honour of your exalted order dated the 1st Nissan, 324, on the subject of the property enjoyed by and pertaining to its honoured owner, Mubarak Pasha-us-Subah, situate in Fao.

To protect it from destruction by water he (Sheikh Mubarak) constructed an embankment, and the soldiers of the fort by night destroyed the embankment. They claim that the land is taken from the river, and is the property of the Government; and the facts appear from examination and at the time of the inquiry.

The embankment about which the question is put is in Fao, and as to the ownership of it, what appears from the inquiry from disinterested persons and the people who have information is that these embankments are of old time for the protection and preservation, and the final issue of orders is reserved to your high opinion.

(Signature of the Kaïmakam of Fao.)

And on 25th Rabi-al-Awwal, 1326 H. (13th Nissan, 324), and from the letter of the Wali to the Kaïmakam at Fao.

This question must be presented before the Imperial threshold. We enjoin upon you as to the truth of it, before a great responsibility comes upon you.

The Kaïmakam of Fao's Reply.

Certainly, all the inclosed lands enter into the Fao property, because in old times they used to embank them and repair them against the overflow of the waters for the purpose of protecting the date trees; and as for the embankment which the soldiers broke, it is from the lands of these embankments, and therefore, if there should be against it an objection because of its propinquity to the fort, then the order pertains to your knowledge.

Inclosure 27 in No. 1.

Major Knox to Major Cox.

(Confidential.) *Bussorah, July 17, 1908.*

IN continuation of correspondence ending with your Office telegram dated the 9th instant, on the subject of Sheikh Mubarak's Fao properties, I have the honour to report that I arrived, in the Royal Indian mail-steamer "Lawrence," at Bussorah on the morning of the 15th instant.

2. On the following day, through the courtesy of His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Bussorah, a visit from his Excellency the Wali, at which I had the advantage of being present, was arranged at the Consulate.

3. His Britannic Majesty's Consul asked his Excellency if he would be so kind as to favour us with the views of the local Ottoman authorities on the following question as Sheikh Mubarak's complaints were continual and the Government of India was anxious for me to report as fully as possible on the facts of the case.

The question was posed in the following way:—

"Why did the Turkish soldiers break down the embankment erected by Sheikh Mubarak and recently repaired by him?"

Was it on account of the land being newly reclaimed?

Was it on account of the embankment proving prejudicial to the safety of the fort?

4. His Excellency replied that the embankment was broken down by the soldiers under the immediate orders of the Commandant of the Fao Fort, and in consequence of some rather ambiguous orders issued by the Commandant at Bussorah, and that the question was largely a military one. The claim of the military authorities which was,

so his Excellency said, supported by the finding of the First Commission of Inquiry consisting of the Fort Commandant, the Commander of the Turkish corvette, and the Kaïmakam of Fao, was to the effect that Sheikh Mubarak had, by advancing his embankment inclosed some 30,000 square metres of newly reclaimed Tash land, which was Government property, and was required for military purposes, viz., the safety zone of the fort. This safety zone, so his Excellency assures us, he had ascertained from the local Commandant, had been recently laid down by regulation to be a distance of 230 metres radiating from the fort in all directions for a fire zone and for a second "view" zone as one might call it a similar distance of 600 metres also radiating from the fort in all directions. His Excellency said that he had been assured by the military surveyors that the land that Sheikh Mubarak had attempted to reclaim lay within the safety zones.

5. I asked my colleague to inform his Excellency that Sheikh Mubarak was under the impression that this Committee had come to a different conclusion, viz., that the disputed ground formed part of the Fao properties, but that the embankment was prejudicial to the safety of the fort. To this his Excellency made no definite reply.

6. I said to my colleague that possibly his Excellency might like to hear from me what were Sheikh Mubarak's pretensions with regard to the land in question, and his Excellency courteously expressed his willingness to hear anything I might have to say on the subject. On this I said that Sheikh Mubarak claimed that the piece of land in question was of long standing, and at any rate within recent times had not been reclaimed from the river, as the mud which had gone to build the fort walls had been taken from it twenty years ago. That Sheikh Mubarak claimed that the embankment recently demolished by the Turkish soldiers had been erected fourteen years ago, and had been repaired three and four times annually without interference or expostulation from the Ottoman local authorities. I added that Sheikh Mubarak requested the appointment of a Commission of Bussorah landed proprietors to adjudicate on the question of whether the land in dispute was newly reclaimed land or not, and I gave his Excellency the names of the Notables suggested by the Sheikh and detailed in the Report that accompanied my letter dated the 23rd June, 1908, to your address. I did not consider it advisable at this juncture to mention the Sheikh's demands as to the presence of a British Representative while the Commission was sitting.

I stated that the Sheikh was even ready, for the sake of peace and quietness, to admit that the land was newly reclaimed land, provided that he received permission after payment of the usual taxes to reclaim, inclose, and cultivate the property in question. His Excellency seemed to offer no objection to the appointment of the Commission, and expressly said that, if the military authorities abandoned their claim, there would be no difficulty raised by the Government to selling, as he put it, the new land to Sheikh Mubarak.

7. As regards the military claim, I informed his Excellency that Sheikh Mubarak had also a reply to make to their claims, viz., that twenty years ago when the Commission came to construct the fort, Sheikh Mubarak and his brother had petitioned to his Excellency asking for a definite statement of the amount of land that was required for the building of the fort. The Petition had been referred to the Medjliss who had, in their turn, sent it to the head of the Fort Commission. That official had replied in writing, and Sheikh Mubarak held a copy of his letter that the land required for the fort was a square piece of ground of which the length was to be 230 metres and the breadth likewise and no more.

8. His Excellency had already, in the course of conversation, alluded to the despatch of the last military mission that discussed the matter of the land with Sheikh Mubarak at Fao on the 4th July, but professed to be ignorant of the finding of that Commission. I informed his Excellency that Sheikh Mubarak had told me that he had discussed the matter with the Commission, and that, while he was of course unaware of the actual finding of that Commission, he had understood from them that they were on the whole favourable to his views, and would report in that sense to their superiors, that they admitted the land in dispute to be the Sheikh's property enjoyed for many years, and that with regard to the safety of the fort, it was true that a zone of 600 metres and even more was required by the regulations, but that the Fort Fao did not, in any sense comply with the requirements, as on the west flank of the fort there was no safety zone whatever as the date gardens come right up to the west wall of the fort.

9. His Excellency replied that, if the military authorities proved to be of that opinion, there would be no difficulty whatever in meeting Sheikh Mubarak's wishes if they were put forward clearly and concisely in the manner that he had heard them formulated by me. His Excellency said that Sheikh Mubarak had inundated him with a

mass of vague correspondence, now threatening, now complaining, from which it was difficult to ascertain his actual wishes. I assured his Excellency that, if he so desired, I should be glad to use such influence as I possessed with Sheikh Mubarak, to induce him to put his requests in clear and comprehensive language which would be submitted to his Excellency through my colleague. His Excellency was good enough to express the pleasure with which he would receive Sheikh Mubarak's representations through this channel.

10. Finding his Excellency so well disposed to listen to our side of the story my colleague, at my suggestion, asked his Excellency if there would be any objection to my visiting Sheikh Mubarak's Fao estates unofficially, and especially the disputed ground, as a visit to the spot would enable me, in my report to superior authority, to elucidate the position far better than any number of complaining letters or even conversation. His Excellency replied that there would be no objection whatever to my visit.

11. His Excellency asked if I could inform him why Sheikh Mubarak, who already enjoyed such large estates, attached such great importance to this tiny little strip of waste land. To this I said that I could only reply that Sheikh Mubarak was at heart a peasant, and held tenaciously to every foot of his Fao lands. I instanced to his Excellency the absolute refusal of Sheikh Mubarak to sell, lease, or even for pecuniary compensation limit his right to plant date trees in such a way as would completely restore the amenities of the cool north-west wind for our unfortunate telegraph officials at Fao.

12. It only remained for me to thank his Excellency for the courteous patience with which he had been good enough to listen to my representations. A visit was arranged for me the following day at which no matters of importance were even touched on. My colleague proposes to visit the Turkish Commandant alone and try and ascertain from him what is the military point of view, and what finding the latest Commission arrived at, and I shall have the honour to submit a report in continuation of the present one after I have received this information after my visit to Fao in the company of either Sheikh Mubarak or his representative. My Bussorah colleague concurs with me in thinking that, after the clear statement made by his Excellency with regard to my visit at Fao, no possible objection can be raised to it hereafter.

Inclosure 28 in No. 1.

Major Knox to Major Cox.

(Confidential.) *Kuweit, July 20, 1908.*

IN continuation of my Confidential letter, dated the 17th July, 1908, I have the honour to report that His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bussorah informed me, before leaving Bussorah, that he had interviewed the Military Commandant at Bussorah and discovered from him that the military authorities had by no means abandoned their claim to the disputed ground, and were quite unable to abandon it. Indeed it appeared from the interview that, as Mr. Consul Crow had already intimated, the opposition to Sheikh Mubarak's views was mainly from the military authorities, and that the civil authorities were disposed to be complacent, if they could only discover a way to be so. His Britannic Majesty's Consul was good enough to promise me a letter giving the results of his conversation with the Military Commandant, and a copy of that letter will be forwarded immediately on receipt.

2. On the morning of the 19th July, I left Bussorah in the Royal Indian mail-steamer "Lawrence" down-river. We halted for a few minutes opposite Failiya, Sheikh Khuzal's river residence, where Sheikh Mubarak's launch was anchored, to enable me to send Moolla Abdullah, the Agency munshi, to communicate with the Sheikh and inform him of our movements. Moolla Abdullah failed to see the Sheikh, who was on shore, but, from the steamer's ladder, informed the Sheikh's Secretary of all that was necessary and returned on board the "Lawrence" immediately. He had been carefully instructed not to go on shore, nor even on board the Sheikh's steamer, so as to avoid all possible quarantine difficulties with the Turkish quarantine officer at Fao.

3. We proceeded down river to a spot, pointed out as the boundary between the Fao and Ma'amir properties, whence I proceeded to the shore in the steam-cutter, while the "Lawrence" resumed her course to Fao village, and finally anchored opposite the Telegraph buildings.

4. I landed at the spot, indicated to me by my chaprassi, Hamad, who is an inhabitant of this part of the country, and was met immediately by one of Sheikh

Mubarak's cultivators, one Inwaihi Dishman. I was accompanied by Sub-Lieutenant Corser, from Royal Indian mail-steamer "Lawrence," Moolla Abdullah, and one chaprassi, the aforenamed Hamad. Inwaihi Dishman led us a little way inland, and we made our way over three or four separate blocks of date gardens, each divided from the other by a creek. We worked down the last creek to the river again, and at the point where creek and river met, found ourselves in a rough open inclosure, where there were perhaps a dozen retainers of Sheikh Mubarak all fully armed. I asked for the headman, and two men presented themselves. One was Badar-bin-Muhammad-ash-Shathi, who had just been relieved of his charge, and the relief was Brahim-bin-Abdul Jabbar, who said that he was at the head of twenty men.

5. I was informed that the quarrel arose over a small piece of land at the outlet of the creek. This creek looked as if it had been straightened out and had originally curled southwards, but such land as had been inclosed by this process was of very small extent and was uncultivated. Even if properly reclaimed and fenced in, it could not have contained a dozen date trees. From thence, I crossed the creek into Ma'amir property to see if we could find any of the Ma'amir cultivators to see what they would say on the subject. There were no indications on their side of an armed detachment, and we only saw three unarmed men, two of whom were on the opposite side of the next creek, and positively disclaimed all knowledge of the dispute. The third man who came up at the moment we persuaded to accompany us to the spot previously indicated, but he also absolutely refused to commit himself to any statement of the causes of quarrel, much less to his view of the Fao Ma'amir boundary. Our stay at this spot could not have exceeded ten minutes, and I embarked again, wondering why so very small and worthless a piece of ground should have occasioned such bitter quarrelling. I was informed that the creek on which the detachment was posted was called Nahar-i-Moosa-bin-Marzuk-al-Abbadi.

6. It was not long that I was permitted to remain in this state of doubt. In the course of my stay at Fao, I was assured by the local gossip that it was an open secret that the creek on which the detachment was posted was not the "Nahar-i-Ghath-ban," and that Sheikh Mubarak has taken from the Ma'amir property and added to his own a large block of date garden probably 100 yards wide, and stretching from the river on the east side to the marshes on the west. Which version is the true one it is difficult to say, but there is no doubt that a large tract of extremely valuable and well-cultivated land is in dispute, and it will be necessary to move with extreme caution before we lend our support to what may quite likely be a piece of serious lawless aggression.

7. I next proceeded down river and landed at the Telegraph buildings and delivered a letter from the quarantine officer at Bussorah to the quarantine officer at Fao. As I had no motive for concealment, I expressed a wish to see the Kaimakam, but it was midday, and he was taking his siesta.

8. I again embarked, and we went down stream to the house of Abdur Rahim-bin-Haji Rashid, who is Sheikh Mubarak's principal Fao agent, and an inhabitant of this part of the country. Here we were met by the news that Abdur Rahim was out, and would not be back till sunset, so I dispatched my chaprassi Hamad, with a local man, to go by land to the Ras-an-Nabt, the extreme southern end of the Fao properties, where Abdur Rahim was stated to be, while we proceeded thither by sea, so that we could catch him on his return journey whether by sea or land.

9. I was now accompanied by the Telegraph nakhoda, one Yasin, but we failed to find Abdur Rahim, who had left a little before Yasin in the dinghy, reached his objective.

10. We then returned a short way up river, and proceeded to a house north of the Turkish fort which was said to overlook the land in dispute between Sheikh Mubarak and military authorities of the Fao Fort. This house belonged to Ahmed-bin-Rizq, of whom mention has already been made in correspondence relating to Warba Island, and here I was, with the usual Arab hospitality, promptly made welcome. As we proceeded westwards up the little creek bounded on either side by reeds, nakhoda Yasin pointed out to me the broken bund, and informed me that it had been constructed in two and a-half hours by 1,000 men, of whom 500 came from the Persian side of the river, while the soldiers were afraid to interfere.

11. The Arabs—and there were a matter of a dozen or so at Ahmed-bin-Rizq's house—informed me that, in their position, they were between the devil and the deep sea, and were at their wits' ends to know what to do. If they carried out Sheikh Mubarak's orders, they incurred the hostility of the Fort soldiers, and if they did not, they had Sheikh Mubarak punishing them. A garden, overlapping Ahmed-bin-Rizq's

date garden and house to the north, was inclosed and planted, so I ascertained, within the last six years according to one account and within the last three years according to another. The significance of this will appear later.

12. We had been sitting in Ahmed-bin-Rizq's date garden a matter of twenty minutes when Sheikh Mubarak's agent, Abdur Rahim, arrived, and we inspected the ground inclosed by the offending embankment. Abdur Rahim informed me that the foundations of the old embankment were laid fourteen years ago, but that nothing had been done subsequently until last autumn, when the whole embankment was constructed in one day. It was destroyed in the winter, and had not been repaired.

13. The ground inclosed to the east of Ahmed-bin-Rizq's house has never been cultivated, and though it would, no doubt, be extremely valuable, if reclaimed, an inspection of the spot is quite sufficient to satisfy any reasonable person that nothing of greater value than reeds has been taken out of it up to date. I am, as a military man, entirely in sympathy with the local military authorities in forbidding its cultivation. No soldier would permit it for a moment. That, at the same time, the fort also is entirely valueless either for attack or defence is perhaps beside the question. It appears to me extremely doubtful whether the embankment was ever erected before last autumn, and Abdur Rahim's statement is valuable as showing that Sheikh Mubarak has not steadily been repairing the embankment three or four times per annum for the last fourteen years. The embankment stretching from Ahmed-bin-Rizq's house to the Fort creek, which does protect a date garden, is sound and in good repair, and no one ever attempted to maintain that the Turkish soldiers touched it.

14. The inspection of the ground also disproves another wild statement of Sheikh Mubarak's, viz., that if the fort garrison fired northwards they would be firing into the telegraph buildings and inhabited villages. The fort fire is masked on the west, and on the west only. No rifle bullet could carry to cultivated or inhabited ground either north, east, or south. Within rifle range there is nothing except dreary swamp land, from which, however, the river is receding, and which will be potentially valuable for date cultivation purposes after no very great lapse of time.

15. I was just getting up to leave when the Yusbashi from the fort came up to Ahmed-bin-Rizq's house, and we sat and talked through an interpreter for a quarter of an-hour. By the courtesy of this gentlemen, I was permitted to proceed along the bund of Ahmed-bin-Rizq to the fort creek, though he would not give me permission to enter the fort which, indeed, I had not asked for. He explained to me what the quarrel had been about and said that, while they did not object to the actual inclosure, if it was thought advisable to inclose this piece merely as an additional precaution against flood water, they could not permit its cultivation in any shape or form. We returned to the Royal India mail steam-ship "Lawrence" that evening without mishap or difficulty of any kind.

16. I had heard from Mr. Lobo, the clerk in charge of the telegraph station at Fao that the Kaimakam of Fao had been making anxious inquiries about me and my movements, and I thought it best to proceed at once in the morning and give a full and frank explanation to him of my presence there. The Kaimakam's house is next to the telegraph quarters, and I sent Moolla Abdulla over to say that I should be very glad to see him and give an explanation of my presence there if he would receive me. A courteous reply was sent, and I proceeded attended by Moolla Abdulla and one chuprassi. My reception was all that could be desired, and I explained to the Kaimakam that Sheikh Mubarak's complaints were continual and I wished to try and get at the facts as far as possible; that I had no authority of my kind and pretended to none; that his Excellency the Wali had said that he saw no objection to my visiting the spot on my return to Koweit. The Kaimakam, Sharif Bey, was so busy explaining the Turkish view of the two cases, Fao–Ma'amir and the Fao Fort and the broken embankment that I may be permitted to doubt whether he paid much attention to the explanation I afforded him. He returned my visit immediately at the telegraph quarters, and we parted on excellent terms.

17. To sum up, the position is briefly thus. It is quite a question whether Sheikh Mubarak has or has not committed a serious aggression, involving valuable property to the north of his estates. In this matter we have no possible jurisdiction or pretext for interference, and the matter appears one entirely for the Turkish Courts to settle.

18. To the south no real damage has been done at all. Sheikh Mubarak has erected a bund round what is at present worthless marsh land, and the Turkish soldiers have destroyed it and for a very good reason too.

The question of right is at best obscure, and it is certainly possible to argue that,

by Turkish law, all that land belongs to the Ottoman Government which permits or refuses to permit reclamation, as it thinks fit. From the Sheikh's letters one would imagine that his estates were gradually passing over into the hands of the Turks. This is not so; it is a question of fresh acquisitions which the Turks refuse to permit him to acquire. In many directions—notably a strip of land to the north of the telegraph buildings and the gardens to the north of Ahmed-bin-Rizq's house—they appear to have been very generous to him, and to have foregone reclamation taxes which they might in all lawfulness have claimed. Owing to the constant silting up of the river at the mouth, the Fao estates are sure to be a fruitful source of quarrels in the future, and it seems hardly likely that any Government with any pretensions to law or civilization will accept without limitation Sheikh Mubarak's claim that his boundary is the river and that as it recedes, his estates follow it without leave asked of anybody.

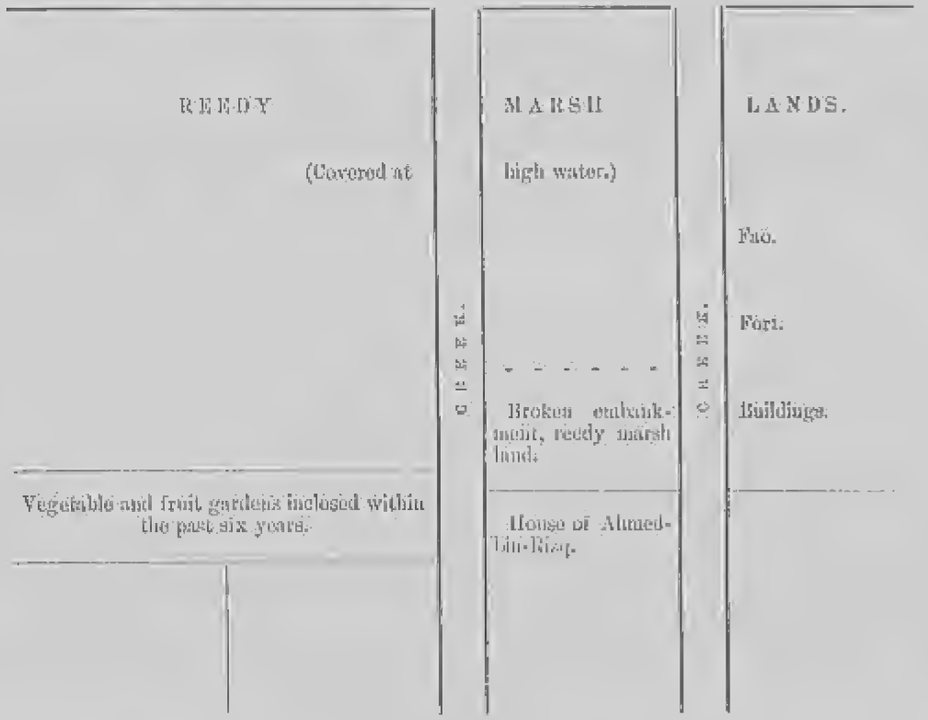
The counsel of perfection would be to have the whole estate carefully surveyed and a record of rights prepared and clear legal opinion obtained as to what the law in the Ottoman dominions really is on this subject of alluvial lands. Throughout my examination of the case I have been greatly impressed with the extreme courtesy shown me by all the Ottoman officials I have met, and the general conclusion I have come to is that at the mouth of the Shat-el-Arab the Turkish Government stands in quite as much need of protection against Sheikh Mubarak as Sheikh Mubarak does against Turkish aggression.

19. I inclose a rough sketch, drawn from memory and not to scale, of the land to the north of the Fao Fort, giving a notion of the position of the land in dispute.

Inclosure 29 in No. 1.

Sketch of Land in dispute between Sheikh Mubarak and the Turkish Military Authorities at Fao Fort.

SHATT-AL-'ARAB.



Dated the 20th July, 1908.

(Signed) S. G. KNOX, *Major*,
Political Agent, Koweit.

Inclosure 30 in No. 1.

Consul Crow to Major Knox.

Bussorah, July 25, 1908.

IN compliance with your request I have the honour to report that on the 17th instant I interviewed Tahir Pasha, Commandant of Bussorah, on the subject of Sheikh Mubarak's claims at Fao.

He entirely confirmed the Vali's assertion that this was purely a military question. He maintained that the Government had a perfect right not only to make good their present claim, but also to expropriate a considerably larger portion of Mubarak's property, of which he possessed no title-deeds. The land in the proximity of the fort is said by the Turks to have been originally submerged and unfit for cultivation, and when the water retires all such land is claimed as Government property. He suggested that if the Sheikh proved recalcitrant in the matter the claims of the Government might be very largely increased.

With regard to the destruction of the bund, the Commandant informed me that only two sides had been overthrown. These had been newly erected, and interfered with the efficiency of the fort, being well within the circle with a radius of 230 metres, which had been deemed necessary for the maintenance of the position. In spite of this the military authorities had at present no intention of asserting any claim to the lands behind the fort, although they lay within this zone. Tahir Pasha considers that it is quite impossible for the Government to reduce their demands, which, he believes, are extremely moderate and reasonable. He also says that very little injury has been inflicted on the Sheikh's lands, the partial destruction of the new bund only affecting the inclosure of a barren, uncultivated strip, to the ownership of which Mubarak was never entitled.

[34026] No. 2.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 2.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Viscount Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 29th ultimo, relative to the Muscat Arbitration Award.

India Office, October 1, 1908.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Viscount Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, September* 29, 1908.

MUSCAT Arbitration Award. Your telegram dated the 3rd September.

Proposal to furnish Sultan with Arabic translation of Proclamation for his personal information is approved by French Government. Necessary instructions should be issued accordingly.

[34044] No. 3.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 2.)

Sir, *India Office, October* 1, 1908.

I AM directed to inclose, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated 1st instant, as to the temporary arrangements to be made for supplying Messrs. Wonckhaus with oxide from Abu Musa, pending a settlement of the case with the German Government.

Lord Morley proposes, subject to Sir E. Grey's concurrence, to inform the Government of India that, provided the arrangement does not prejudice the decision to be arrived at with the German Government, there is no objection to the proposal of the Resident in the Gulf to employ the brother of the Residency Agent at Lingah—who

it may be observed is not an European—in the event of an arrangement with Mr. Strick's agent proving impracticable.

I am to ask for the favour of an early reply.

I am, &c.

(Signed) COLIN G. CAMPBELL.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Government of India to Viscount Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *October* 1, 1908.

ABU MUSA. Your telegram dated the 22nd ultimo.

The intention of Major Cox now appears to have been to suggest that a brother of the Residency Agent, Lingah, who is a private trader, and not the Sheikh's brother, should be employed. If it is impracticable to make local arrangement with Strick's agent, Major Cox inquires whether he may make arrangement with brother of Residency Agent, Lingah. It is proposed to sanction this course.

[34091] No. 4.

Messrs. Gellatly, Hankey, and Co. to Foreign Office.—(Received October 2.)

Sir, *Dock House, Billiter Street, London, October* 1, 1908.

WE beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, and to thank you for communicating to us the information you have received from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople regarding the state of affairs at Jeddah.

We have had advices confirming the information that has appeared in the papers as to the looting of a caravan within a quarter of a mile of the walls of Jeddah, and also that the Grand Shereef of Mecca was reported to be contemplating sending Bedouins to the assistance of the late Governor of Jeddah, but our last mail reports that the Grand Shereef is being dismissed and a fresh appointment made; that the ex-Governor is being removed to Constantinople; and that the trouble with regard to the irregularity of the postal arrangements has disappeared.

Though Jeddah itself is tranquil, however, our advices are that the country outside is not yet in this state, and this is confirmed by our still being without remittances that were to be received from Medina, nor has the representative we send to Mecca yet been able to leave Jeddah.

We still think that at some time in the near future it would be well if one of His Majesty's ships could call at Jeddah, not so much because of any idea of there being trouble in Jeddah itself, but for the effect of the flag being shown in that port.

We understand that His Majesty's Consul at Jeddah is at present at home, and we would respectfully ask whether his opinion on the subject might be taken.

We have, &c.

(Signed) GELLATLY, HANKEY, AND Co.

[34044] No. 5.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 2, 1908.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, in which you transmit a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 1st instant, in regard to certain arrangements for the temporary supply of a limited amount of red oxide to Messrs. Wönckhaus, pending a settlement of the case with the German Government.

I am to state, in reply, that Sir E. Grey concurs in the instructions which the Secretary of State for India proposes to issue to the Viceroy on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[34200] No. 6.

Ottoman Railway Company to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 3.)

Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, October 2, 1908.

Dear Sir Edward Grey,

I AM desired by the Council of the Ottoman Railway Company to convey to you the accompanying Resolution adopted by them at their meeting to-day, and to respectfully request for it your most favourable consideration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RATHMORE.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Resolution adopted by Council of Ottoman Railway Company, October 2, 1908.

Resolved,—That the Council earnestly request His Majesty's Government to take all possible measures for the safety of the Company's offices and servants and of British property in face of the continuance of the very dangerous conditions at Smyrna, and urge upon His Majesty's Government that an English man-of-war should be sent there without delay.

[34290] No. 7.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 600.)
Sir, *Constantinople, September 23, 1908.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 524 of the 31st August, I have the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Acting-Consul at Bussorah relating to the disturbances at El Katif and the measures taken by the Ottoman authorities to restore order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Acting Consul Geary to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 67.)
Sir, *Bussorah, August 20, 1908.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 54 of the 17th August and my despatch No. 58 of the 8th August, I have the honour to report that according to the latest news the position of affairs at El Katif remains very much the same. Fighting has continued, but the small Turkish garrison of about seventy men has succeeded in holding its own, and, according to the most reliable report, has accounted for 400 of the besiegers as opposed to a loss of between 100 and 200 combatants and non-combatants on the other side.

On Wednesday, the 26th August, the 4th Battalion of the 42nd Regiment, with one gun from Ali-el-Gharbi and one gun from Amara, left for Katif. This force consisted of 200 men. They were accompanied by 100 soldiers from the 3rd Battalion of the 42nd Regiment and by the newly appointed Mutessarif of El Khasa.

The Chief of Gendarmerie at Bussorah was also dispatched to make inquiries as to the origin of the disturbances. From information received I have little doubt that this force will be sufficient to disperse the Bedouins and restore the town to a state of tranquillity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR B. GEARY.

[34294] No. 8.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 605.)
Sir, *Constantinople, September 23, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Beirout, reporting a movement in favour of the Parliamentary representation of the Lebanon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Consul-General Cumberbatch to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 64.)
Sir, *Beirout, September 9, 1908.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 59 of the 20th instant on the subject of the proposed participation of the Lebanon in the new Parliamentary representation, and in confirmation of my telegram of to-day, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the leaders of the anti-clerical Maronite party have been very active in working up the inhabitants towards the object they have in view, which is to take advantage of the chances offered by the situation created by the revival of the Ottoman Constitution to curtail the baneful influence of the Maronite clergy, and to introduce greatly needed administrative reforms.

The principal leaders of this anti-clerical, or, as they call themselves "Liberal" party, are: Selim Bey Ammoon, Canaan Bey Dahir, Habib Pasha Saad, and Anton Bey Khouri (Maronites), who have been just joined by Mir Malek Shehab and Berber Bey Khazen, until last week Kaimakam of Meln and Colonel of Gendarmerie respectively.

The Druses are led by their two recognized chiefs, i.e., Mir Mustapha Arslan and Nessib Bey Djumblatt, who are supported, amongst others, by Mir Shekib Arslan and Mahmoud Bey Djumblatt.

The Greek Orthodox have as their representative Faris Effendi Musherek and his brothers, with two active and able young orators, named Daoud Effendi Mejaas and Gabriel Effendi Nassar.

The Metwalis have Mohamed Bey Saïd and the Greek Catholics, Daoud Effendi Issa as their leaders.

Under the auspices of this newly formed party numerous entertainments have been organized in the principal towns of the Lebanon in celebration of the Constitution, and in honour of the Military Committee of Beirout.

The fêtes usually consist of banquets, to which 50 to 100 men sit down, followed by open-air meetings, at which a liberal supply of speeches is always forthcoming. Though occasionally the discourses contain somewhat violent language against the Sovereign and against the Government officials of the Lebanon, the general tone of the speeches is moderate.

In all directions, however, the immediate necessity of improvements in the administration is insisted upon.

Whilst these celebrations are still going on the necessity of coming to practical business has been recognized, and the gentlemen named above with some of their supporters, numbering in all about thirty, held a meeting at Beirout on the 6th instant, at which the following five "demands of the Lebanon from the Lebanon Government" were unanimously agreed upon:—

1. Proclamation of the Constitution in Mount Lebanon, and Parliamentary representation of the Lebanon in the Chamber of Deputies at Constantinople subject to the condition that their members shall not take part in the deliberations affecting the "Réglement" of the Lebanon except where authorized by the inhabitants to do so.

2. Dissolution of the present Administrative Council of the Lebanon, and election of new members, in whom the public have confidence.

3. Dismissal of all "traitors" and corrupt officials in the Lebanon as carried out in other parts of the Empire.

4. Abolition of the newly created taxes.

5 Formation of a "provisional" Advisory Committee elected by the inhabitants for financial reforms. The decisions of this Committee to be confirmed by the Administrative Council so as to have the force of law.

A copy of these "demands" was brought to this Consulate-General on the 7th instant by a deputation of five gentlemen representing the several sects in the Lebanon, and in my absence a message was left with the dragoman to the effect that the meeting had decided to send to the Governor on the 12th instant a deputation composed of fifty or sixty delegates from the several districts to demand the execution of these measures, and that they reported the matter to the Consuls in the hope that they will secure their support.

The message—which I understand has been communicated to my colleagues—concluded with the information that if the Governor refused to carry out their demands another deputation, but of many thousands, would proceed to Beteddin.

I have reason to believe, as stated in my telegram of to-day, that Youssouf Pasha, who I suppose will not refuse to receive the deputation, will refer the more important question of Parliamentary representation to Constantinople as he considers it a matter for settlement between the Ottoman Government and the Embassies in view of the international basis of the Protocols regulating the privileges of the Lebanon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

[34311] No. 9.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 624.)
Sir, *Therapia, September* 28, 1908.

IN the reports forwarded by this Embassy on the state of affairs in Anatolia you will have read numerous references to Ibrahim Pasha, the Chief of the Kurds of the Milli district, which is situated to the south of Diarbekir.

In a region devoted to chronic disorder he was perhaps the most disorderly, and the almost innumerable charges brought against him for raids, pillage, and murder were always met by him and his partisans with counter-charges of a far more grievous nature, so that, while on the one hand he was depicted as the very type of a brigand chief, on the other he was held up as the mirror of innocence and guilelessness.

Whenever the Ashrafs of Diarbekir sought to cloak their own misdeeds, or whenever the Vali had need of an excuse for raising money, telegrams would be sent to Constantinople, announcing that Ibrahim was again on the war-path, but the Palace, while occasionally ordering a Commission to be sent to report the true state of affairs in this district, had always too much respect for so powerful a Kurdish Chief and leader of Hamidieh even to allow him to be pushed to extremes.

It is true that, at the time of the massacres, the Pasha intervened to save the Armenians of Severek, but there is reason to believe that he did not do this from motives of sheer humanity, but rather on the principle that it is a mistake to kill one's milch cow.

He appears to have had a fair share of the barbaric virtues, and thus the few Europeans who came across him were apt to fall under the glamour of courage and chivalry which surrounded him, whilst the idea became prevalent, were he to disappear, not that there was some probability that his followers, deprived of their leader, would devote themselves to the more sedentary and peaceful ways of life, but that they, being no longer under any control, would make chaos more chaotic still.

Meanwhile his influence and power steadily increased, and he successfully evaded an invitation from the Government to pay a visit to Aleppo, but at last, in an evil hour, under the Pan-Islamic agitation which was set on foot by Izzet Pasha in favour of the Hedjaz Railway, he offered to go down with a number of his followers to protect the railway against the attacks of the local Arab tribes. His offer was accepted with enthusiasm, and his arrival at Damascus with 960 Kurdish cavalry was reported on the 22nd July.

Of these only 180 were forwarded down the line to Medina, the remainder staying at Damascus, where, though their behaviour gave no cause for complaint, their presence was unwelcome, the townspeople fearing what might happen should it be prolonged so long that the novelty of their surroundings should wear off, and that

their amusement in contemplating the wealth of the city should be replaced by the desire of taking possession thereof.

The reformed Government, however, did not regard him at all with the same eye of favour as had the old régime, and did not delay in transmitting to him orders to send his men home and to present himself at Constantinople; but, on the 24th ultimo, he started off with his followers with the intention of returning to his country by way of Rakka, thus avoiding Aleppo. His men during their stay at Damascus had been provided with a Government Mauser rifle and thirty cartridges a-piece, and an attempt to recover these arms before their departure was unsuccessful.

The military were put in motion and followed close on their track, but they succeeded in crossing the Euphrates not far from Aleppo, and continued their homeward road pursued by the troops from Rakka, Aintab, and Zor, whilst detachments were moved and intercepted him from Diarbekir, Mardin, Kharput, and Serodj, the Redifs of these places and also of Midiat being called out to assist, while further forces were held in readiness at Erzinjan. Large numbers of Kurdish and Arab tribesmen bent on spoil joined in the pursuit, and the Pasha was at length brought to bay in his town of Viranshehir, some 60 miles south-west of Diarbekir. He sent a letter to His Majesty's Vice-Consul in the latter town, soliciting the intervention of this Embassy as being the only people whom he trusted on his behalf, and declaring that, if his rights were protected and the hostile tribes removed, he would deliver up his arms and come to Constantinople.

I informed the Grand Vizier of Ibrahim's request, and His Highness stated that if he would surrender, handing over the Government rifles in his possession, he should benefit by the general amnesty as regarded his past offences against the Government, who would secure him fair treatment in any private cases brought against him. I gathered from the tone of Kiamil Pasha's remarks that he would have nothing to fear if he came in, and I informed Mr. Heard accordingly.

Whatever may have been the personal merits of Ibrahim, it seems beyond question that this resolute suppression of a Chief who by dint of lawlessness had raised himself to a semi-independent position would have a far-reaching effect in awing and tranquillizing the Kurds throughout Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[34200] No. 10.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 286.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 5, 1908.

AIDIN Railway.

Please instruct Consul-General at Smyrna to keep us fully supplied with information as to arrival of troops at that town.

Reference is to your telegram No. 281 of the 29th ultimo.

[34605] No. 11.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 6.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Viscount Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 3rd instant, relative to the Abu Musa Oxide Concession.

India Office, October 5, 1908.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Viscount Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, October* 3, 1908.

ABU MUSA.

Provided temporary arrangements made by Resident, Persian Gulf, are such that final settlement with Germany is not prejudiced, there is no objection to procedure proposed in your telegram of the 1st instant.

[34752] No. 12.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 209.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 7, 1908.

I WISH to support the suggestion of the Consul-General at Smyrna, who considers that, in view of the recent large purchases of revolvers and guns by Moslems, of the continued agitation among workmen, and of the helplessness of the authorities, all which facts are conducive to general uneasiness and prejudicial to trade, it would be advisable to have a cruiser close at hand in Greek waters.

The Italian Consul-General is reported to have made a like suggestion to his Ambassador.

I have pointed out the seriousness of the matter to the Grand Vizier, who always promises to take steps in the matter. The rioters, however, are very threatening, and appear to be beyond control.

[34758] No. 13.

Consul-General Barnham to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 7.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Smyrna, October* 7, 1908.

THE strike on the Aidin Railway has been settled, and in consequence there is a great improvement in the situation.

[34854] No. 14.

The Marquis di San Giuliano to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 8.)

My dear Sir Edward, *Italian Embassy, London, October* 5, 1908.

YOU are well aware that, in deference to the wish expressed in your note of the 28th May, my Government consented to put off the departure of Captain Crispi from Aden to Muscat. It was then suggested that, as a result of the then sitting Brussels Conference, Muscat might cease to be an emporium of arms. But now, in view of the unsatisfactory conclusion of the first period of the Conference, and owing to the fact that the negotiations between this country and France for Muscat are not, as far as we know, near to a definite agreement, my Government think that it would be difficult for them to any longer dispense with the services of an Agent at Muscat. His mission would, of course, have no political aims, but simply would serve the purpose of furnishing the Italian Government with valuable intelligence from the spot, and, in fact, would be the only means available to them, in the present circumstances, for trying to check the important traffic of arms and ammunition which is reported now to be carried on from Muscat to the coast of Somaliland. The present attitude of the Mullah towards Italy and England makes it urgent to devise some means to stop as far as possible this condition of affairs.

In these conditions, my Government would be desirous to dispatch at once Captain Crispi to Muscat, but, before such step is taken, Signor Tittoni wants me to inform you personally of the above-stated point of view of the Italian Government, and to express the hope that you will appreciate the weight of the reasons which have led them to it.

I shall be glad to receive any communication which you might have to send to me on this subject, and also to be informed, if possible, of the present condition of the negotiations with France for Muscat. Should you think it expedient to verbally discuss the matter with me, I shall be at your entire disposition.

I beg, &c.

(Signed) SAN GIULIANO.

[34892] No. 15.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 8.)

Sir, *India Office, October* 7, 1908.

WITH reference to your letter, dated the 12th November, 1907, relative to the rights of the Sheikh of Koweit in the Islands of Warba and Bubiyan, I am directed by Viscount Morley to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from the Government of India on the subject.

It will be seen that the inquiries of the Political Agent, Koweit, go far to establish Sheikh Mubarak's claims to the ownership of Bubiyan Island; but that the evidence in regard to Warba Island and the adjoining coast is of a doubtful character.

Subject to the concurrence of Sir E. Grey, Lord Morley would propose to await the further report promised by the Government of India before any steps are taken to assert the Sheikh's claims in respect of Warba. As regards Bubiyan, his Lordship is disposed to doubt whether, in the circumstances stated in the fifth paragraph of the Government of India's letter, the moment is opportune for taking any action in the matter. He would be glad, however, to be favoured with an expression of Sir E. Grey's views on this point.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 15.

Government of India to Viscount Morley.

(Secret.)

My Lord, *Simla, September* 10, 1908.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram dated the 20th November, 1907, we have the honour to forward, for the information of His Majesty's Government, copies of correspondence regarding the rights of the Sheikhs of Koweit over the Islands of Bubiyan and Warba.

2. As regards Bubiyan Island, the evidence which the Political Agent at Koweit has now collected shows that until the recent establishment there of a post by the Turkish authorities the island had been in the exclusive occupation of the Awazim tribe, who have exercised for generations hereditary fishing rights in virtue of grants made by the Sheikhs of Koweit, and that the authority of the Sheikhs to make such grants has hitherto never been disputed. These facts confirm the view as to the Sheikh's claim to the Island of Bubiyan which we put forward in paragraph 5 of our Secret despatch dated the 4th February, 1904.

3. As regards the coast-line from Um Kasr to Sabiya, in the absence of any reliable evidence that the Ahmed-bin-Rizk, who is alleged by Sheikh Mubarak to have built the old fort and dug the Um Kasr wells, was a Koweit subject, the Sheikh's claim rests on the existence of old Settlements founded by Koweit subjects on the western bank of the Khor Sabiya and on the fact that the coast-line is actually in the occupation of Koweit Arabs, who recognize the authority of the Sheikh alone. We doubt whether the Sheikh's title can be considered as fully established by these considerations.

4. The evidence as regards Warba Island is, in our opinion, by no means conclusive. The Sheikh claims the island, which has apparently never been occupied, merely on geographical considerations, as the private proprietor, under a deed of settlement, of the opposite coast-line from Fao to Khor Zubeir.

5. So far, therefore, as Warba Island and the Um Kasr–Sabiya coast are concerned, His Majesty's Government will probably prefer to await the result of the further inquiries which Major Cox has directed before taking active steps to assert the Sheikh's

claims. As regards the Bubiyan Island, we shall be glad to be informed whether His Majesty's Government contemplate addressing the Turkish Government in the matter, or whether they desire that a favourable opportunity should be taken to assist the Sheikh to establish his authority. At present it would appear that the Sheikh is not anxious to move in the matter, and, although we attach the greatest importance to the assertion of the Sheikh's rights in Bubiyan at an early date, we would not advise the location of a Koweit post on the island unless we could count on the hearty co-operation of the Sheikh.

We have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.
KITCHENER.
H. ERLE RICHARDS.
C. H. SCOTT.
H. ADAMSON.
J. O. MILLER.
W. L. HARVEY.
J. S. MESTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 15.

Captain Trevor to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Bushire, June* 17, 1908.

WITH reference to paragraph 2 of your indorsement dated the 20th April, 1908, I have the honour to forward herewith a report from the Political Agent, Koweit, on the ownership of the Islands of Bubiyan and Warba.

Owing to the absence of the Resident at Shiraz, the report has not yet been seen by him. It is therefore possible that he may desire to submit some remarks on it later.

Inclosure 3 in No. 15.

Major Knox to Major Cox.

(Confidential.) *Koweit, June* 9, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 20th May, 1908, inviting my attention to Foreign Department telegram dated the 21st November, 1907, and requesting the expedition of the report called for therein regarding Warba Island.

2. I would first express my extreme regret at the delay that has taken place in submitting the report on this important question. It was seldom during the cold weather that Sheikh Mubarak and myself were together in Koweit, and since I returned from tour in the beginning of March, Sheikh Mubarak has been so occupied in marriage festivities that it has been difficult to persuade him to attend to business.

3. I was at first inclined to throw on Sheikh Mubarak the onus of producing proof of his ownership of the island, and he undertook verbally to do so; but copies of recent correspondence between us, forwarded herewith, will show how completely he fails to understand the nature of the proof that is required to establish his ownership successfully.

4. I was therefore compelled to request the Sheikh, as will be seen from the correspondence, to send me Awazim witnesses and hold an informal inquiry myself. The result of this inquiry—the depositions in English and vernacular are forwarded herewith—has been to furnish clear evidence as to the ownership of Bubiyan Island, and there is therefore room for congratulation in that, so far, the inquiry has not been barren of results. I may be permitted to record here the very favourable impression I formed of the Awazim witnesses. Their evidence was clear and to the point, and obviously untutored. I think a mere perusal of their statements will convince a disinterested observer of this fact. No one with any regard to the truth will be able to deny that an ancient grant of fishing rights was accorded to the Awazim fishermen by Sheikh Mubarak's great-grandfather, and that his order has been universally respected to the present day. I hope shortly to obtain written evidence that these rights are

capable of inheritance and transfer, and that the forum which habitually deals with such cases is the old Shar'a Court of Koweit, in which the hereditary Kazi is of the Atsani family, and which depends for the execution of its decrees on the executive action of the Sheikhs of Koweit. This will go far to establish the ancient ownership of the Sheikhs of Koweit in Bubiyan Island and the unwarranted encroachment of the Turkish authorities in establishing, in spite of remonstrances, a post there, flanked on all sea sides, by the Awazim properties.

5. The proof of ownership of Warba Island will have to depend on other considerations, and we are here on weaker ground. The Awazim evidence is clear and uncompromising that the island has never been of any use to anybody, and no rights of ownership would appear to have ever been exercised there. It would seem, therefore, to depend mainly on geographical considerations, and the question may be posed thus: "Is Warba an offshoot of Bubiyan, and does, therefore, the ownership of Warba Island follow that of Bubiyan?" or "Is Warba an offshoot of the mainland, and does the ownership pertain to whoever can establish his claim to the mainland?" Sheikh Mubarak maintains that the mainland swamp between Fao and the Khor Zubair is his property, but, in his capacity of Turkish subject, paying revenues to the Turkish Government. The Sheikh states that there is incontrovertible proof of this fact in the deed of settlement between himself and the sons of his murdered brethren, in which the boundaries are clearly laid down to be, to the south and west, the sea, the Khor Abdulla, and the creek. This creek he contends to be the Khor Zubair, explored in 1907 by a survey party from Royal Indian Mail steamer "Investigator." The Sheikh declares that there is no other creek between Fao and Khor Zubair, and, however this may be—and I am inclined to doubt it—the mention of Khor Abdulla would go far to support his contention that the creek in question lies far to the westward.

Bubiyan Island, on the other hand, would appear to be as clearly the property of the Sheikhs of Koweit under God, as one of the Awazim witnesses quaintly put it.

There remains the coast-line from Umm Gasar to Subiya. Sheikh Mubarak lays claim to Umm Gasar on the ground that the old fort, marked on the charts, was erected by one Ahmed-bin-Rizk in the time of his grandfather, Jabir-as-Subah, and that the original name of the place is Bahaith; that the name of the place was changed by the Bedouin to Umm Gasar by the fact of the erection of the fort—the term "fort" is perhaps rather a misnomer, as any hut is termed Gasar by the Bedouin—in the time of his ancestor by the same Ahmed-bin-Rizk, who was undoubtedly a Koweit subject, and whose descendants still live in his house here in Koweit. It was this same Ahmed-bin-Rizk who dug the Umm Gasar wells. Another proof to which Sheikh Mubarak attaches importance is the presence of an island, called Jazirat-as-Suf, or Wood Island, immediately opposite Umm Gasar, where the Koweit Bedouins used to wash their wool for market. The Turkish erection of a fort at Umm Gasar was an encroachment that has never, so far as I am aware, been acquiesced in by the British Government, and is still a grievance with Sheikh Mubarak. From Umm Gasar down the coast I can myself testify without hesitation to the fact that the land is regarded as the grazing ground of the Koweit Arabs, and that Sheikh Mubarak's will throughout the region is law.

6. To sum up, I venture to record the opinion that Sheikh Mubarak's claim to the ownership of Warba Island is a very strong one, and that the general considerations recorded above are worthy of credit and could be established with little trouble. I regard the private ownership of Warba Island as undoubtedly vested in Sheikh Mubarak, as, on the north private proprietor of the coast-line, proved so by deeds recorded in a Turkish Court of Law. The proofs to the ownership of Umm Gasar would have to be examined, and the considerations advanced by Sheikh Mubarak will undoubtedly have great weight, as will also his *de facto* occupation of the western bank of the Khor Subiya, as evidenced by the old settlements of Araitijiya, Hogaiju, and Subiya, the numerous wells dug by Koweit Araibdar, and the actual *status quo*, as evidenced by the grazing rights of Koweit Araibdar and the Sheikh's authority throughout this tract. The analogy of Bubiyan, which I regard as undoubtedly Koweit property and at least as independent of Turkish control as Koweit itself, will have great weight in deciding the ownership of Warba Island, and the only point that admits of doubt is the extent to which Sheikh Mubarak's right of ownership may be limited by Turkish sovereignty.

Inclosure 4 in No. 15.

Examination of Witnesses in Inquiry (confidential) re Ownership of Warba Island.

Examination of Rajah-ibn-Mubarak.

1. *Q.* What is your name?—*A.* Rajah-ibn-Mubarak.
2. *Q.* Tribe?—*A.* Awazim. Section?—*A.* Ath Thaibat.
3. *Q.* Age approximate?—*A.* 85 years. I have seen Jabir, Mubarak's grandfather.
4. *Q.* Tell me the names of the various fishing-nets on Warba Island with the names of their owners. Commence from the east and go round by the north.—*A.* There are no fishing-nets at all on Warba Island. Whoever says there are tells lies.

4 A. *Q.* What is the name of the Ihor between Warba and Bubiyan?—*A.* Khor Warba.

4 B. *Q.* In that khor are there fishing-nets on the Bubiyan side?—*A.* There are none.

4 C. *Q.* Why?—*A.* The water all round the island is deep and the tide strong, unsuitable for fishing weirs.

4 D. *Q.* Do you use Warba for drying fish?—*A.* No. We use Bubiyan, and the ownership is there.

4 E. *Q.* Is the Island of Warba of any use at all to you?—*A.* No.

4 F. *Q.* Is it of any use to anybody else as far as you know?—*A.* Of no use to anybody.

Note.—As the witness disclaims Warba Island being of any use to anybody, the inquiry veered round to Bubiyan Island, and the following questions should be taken as relating thereto.

5 A. *Q.* To whom does Bubiyan Island belong and its fishing weirs?—*A.* To the Awazim. No one else has any right there.

5. *Q.* Who gave them these places?—*A.* Abdulla, father of Jabir, and great-grandfather of Mubarak.

6. *Q.* Are they inherited?—*A.* Yes.

7. *Q.* Does any one in authority over the Awazim distribute the fishing-grounds among the tribesmen?—*A.* No. Every one knows his own place and portion.

8. *Q.* How did the island become reserved to Awazim fishermen? By whose order?—*A.* Abdulla-us-Subah.

8 A. *Q.* Did all the Sheikhs after him respect his order and not reverse it?—*A.* No one reversed it.

9. *Q.* Is the fishing confined to any special Awazim section or sections?—If so, name them?—*A.* Tracts allotted from Bubiyan Island to Awazim sections for planting fishing-nets, commencing from Ras-al-Gaid and proceeding northwards:—

Section of Awazim.	Name of Owner.	Section of Awazim.	Name of Owner.
1. Braichat	Alaiyan-ibn-Jarib.	12. Rashaida (another tribe)	'Awath-ibn-S'oaiba.
2. Braichat	" "	13. Al Aghruba ..	Abaid-al-Aghruba.
3. Jawariya	Hamood-ur-Rashid.	14. " ..	Mohanna-al-Aghruba.
4. Adaniya Ras, opposite Jawasim	Sabiya belongs to Hamood.	15. Al Ga'aib	Mas'ud-al-Agaili.
5. Adaniya Ras, opposite Jawasira	" " "	16. "	" "
6. Thaibat	Mutlag-al-Ifnaini.	17. Al Mosalid ..	Hamud-ibn-'Eid.
7. "	Nasir-al-Ifnaini.	18. Al Mosahima ..	Khuthaimash Shaithavi.
8. Hadalin	Mubarak-ibn-Kathsir.	19. Al Braichat ..	Awaiyid-al-Ichmai.
9. Al Towaim ..	Salim-ibn-Zaid.	20. Jawariya ..	Hamood-ur-Rashid.
10. " ..	" "	21. Al Garaisha ..	'Amar-al-Farthi.
11. Al Jawariya ..	Abdulla-bin-Ubaidan.	22. Al Ga'aib	Umthib-al-Athaina.

10. *Q.* Are any taxes paid to any one in respect of the catch, and, if so, to whom?—*A.* No.

11. *Q.* Who settles disputes? Small? Large?—*A.* As Subah.

12. *Q.* Do you know of any instance when strangers tried to come and settle or fish on Warba Island? If so, give account of transaction.—*A.* No.

13. *Q.* Have the Turkish authorities ever interfered in the island in any way to your knowledge?—*A.* They put a hut on the Ras-al-Gaid at the time of the quarrel between Yusuf-al-Brahim and Sheikh Mubarak, but the people in it do not molest or interfere with us in any way.

14. *Q.* Have any of your tribes any written sanad of any kind granting them the right to fish there? If so, can you produce it?—*A.* Every fisherman has a written sanad.

Read over and accepted to be correct.

(Signed) S. G. KNOX, *Major*,
Political Agent, Koweit.

Koweit, June 6, 1908.

Examination of Rashid-bin-Salman.

1. *Q.* What is your name?—*A.* Rashid-bin-Salman.
2. *Q.* Tribe?—*A.* Awazim. *Q.* Section?—*A.* Mosahima.
3. *Q.* Age approximate?—*A.* 70. I have seen Abdulla, great-grandfather of Sheikh Mubarak, when I was a little child.
4. *Q.* Tell me the names of the various fishing-nets on Warba Island with the names of their owners. Commence from the east and go round by the north?—*A.* There are no fishing weirs in Warba.

4 A. *Q.* What is the name of the khor between Warba and Bubiyan?—*A.* Umm-al-'Asid and Khor-as-Sha'alib.

4 B. *Q.* In that khor, are there fishing-nets on the Bubiyan side?—*A.* There are none.

4 C. *Q.* Why?—*A.* The water is too deep.

4 D. *Q.* Do you use Warba for drying fish?—*A.* No.

4 E. *Q.* Is the Island of Warba of any use to you?—*A.* No.

4 F. *Q.* Is it of any use to anybody else as far as you know?—*A.* Of no use to anybody.

Note.—As in Rajah's deposition.

5. *Q.* Who gave them these places?—*A.* Abdulla, father of Jabir.

5 A. *Q.* To whom does Bubiyan Island belong and its fishing-nets?—*A.* To God and the Sheikhs. They placed the Awazim there.

6. *Q.* Are they inherited?—*A.* They are inherited and matter of merchandize.

7. *Q.* Does any one in authority over the Awazim distribute the fishing grounds among the tribesmen?—*A.* No. They all know their places.

8. *Q.* How did the island become reserved to Awazim fishermen? By whose order?—*A.* Abdulla, father of Jabir.

8 A. *Q.* Did all the Sheikhs after him respect his order and not reverse it?—*A.* No one reversed it.

9. *Q.* Is the fishing confined to any special Awazim section or sections? If so, name them?—*A.* Tracts allotted from Bubiyan Island to Awazim sections for planting fishing-nets, commencing from Ras Adaniya and proceeding eastwards:—

Section of Awazim.	Name of Owner.	Section of Awazim.	Name of Owner.
1. Al Ga'aib	Mansur-al-Athaina.	14. Al Ga'aib	Musib-al-Athaina.
2. "	Musib-al-Athaina.	15. Al Aghruba ..	Mohanna-al-Aghruba.
3. "	Mansur-al-Athaina.	16. Al Ga'aib	Mas'ud-al-Agaili.
4. Thaibat	Salim-al-Hosaini.	17. At Towaim ..	Sa'ud-al-Buti.
5. "	Nasir-al-Ifnaini.	18. Al Mojamida ..	Hamud-ibn-'Eid.
6. Hadalin	Khuthair-al-Khagag.	19. Al Braichat ..	Awaiyid-al-Ichmai.
7. At Towaim	Salim-bin-Zaid.	20. Al Garaisha ..	Nasir-al-Farthi.
8. Al Jawariya	Abdulla-ibn-Ubaidan.	21. Al Jawariya ..	Hamud-ur-Rashid.
9. Rashidi (settled with Awazim)	'Awath-bin-Bijran.	22. Al Ga'aib	Umthib-al-Athaina.
10. Hadalin	Agaiyal-ibn-Sharaida.	23. Rashidi	Bejran-bin-Mathib.
11. Al Ja'amira	Mazruk-bin-Gharib.	24–26. Jawariya ..	Hamud-al-Rashid (his children).
12. Al Aghruba	Ubaid-al-Aghruba.	27. Jawariya	Hamud-ur-Rashid.
13. Al Ga'aib	Musib-al-Athaina.		

10. *Q.* Are any taxes paid to any one in respect of the catch, and, if so, to whom?—*A.* No.

11. *Q.* Who settles disputes? Small? Large?—*A.* Either the Shariat or the Sheikhs.

12. *Q.* Do you know of any instance when strangers tried to come and settle or fish on Warba Island? If so, give account of transaction?—*A.* One of the family of Al Mohanna wanted to get it from the Subah family. I think it was in the time of Jabir, grandfather of Mubarak. I do not know what he wanted to do there, but he was of the people of Koweit.

13. *Q.* Have the Turkish authorities ever interfered in the island in any way to your knowledge?—*A.* They have put up a hut after Sarif, but they do not interfere in our affairs in any way.

14. *Q.* Have any of your tribes any written sanad of any kind granting them the right to fish there? If so, can you produce it? *A.* There are no sanads signed by the Sheikhs, but there are wills and there are deeds of sale signed by the 'Atsani. There were quarrels, and Jabir gave a verbal order to the Awazim to see that there were no quarrels and encroachments.

Read over and accepted to be correct.

(Signed) S. G. KNOX, *Major*,
Political Agent, Koweit.

Koweit, June 6, 1908.

Inclosure 5 in No. 15.

Translation of Confidential Correspondence passing between Sheikh Mubarak-as-Subah, Ruler of Koweit, and Major Knox.

(1.)

Sheikh Mubarak to Major Knox.

(After compliments.) *7th Jamadi-al-Awwal*, 1326 H.

LET it not be hidden from your Honour that the Island of Warba is our property and the place of the erection of fishing-nets of the people of Koweit for 200 years; and in the past years, in the time of our grandfathers and fathers, strangers were referring to them, demanding from them permission to inhabit it at a rent, and that was not accorded to them, for it is a place of obtaining a livelihood of poor fishers, people of Koweit, and that you may take cognizance of this we have written this letter, and may you remain safe.

(Seal of Sheikh Mubarak-as-Subah.)

(2.)

Major Knox to Sheikh Mubarak.

(After compliments.) *7th Jamadi-al-Awwal*, 1326 H. (*June* 7, 1908).

YOUR letter of the 7th Jamadi-al-Awwal has reached me, and whatever you have detailed there about the Island of Warba has become known to me, that it is your property and the place of erection of fishing-nets of the people of Koweit for 200 years, and that it is the place of livelihood for poor fishers of the people of Koweit, and that the aforesaid island is a portion of Koweit. Quite so, but let it not be hidden from your Honour that with people apart from us, the English, and your Honour's subjects, your Honour's letter will be only the talk of the claimant, and we wish to prove this talk with proofs and arguments, and we desire proof of that, that this island is the place of the erection of fishing-nets of the people of Koweit, and without doubt we shall find some of the old men who have information on this subject, that we may inquire of them, and, if you think proper, that you should send one of your men, as, for instance, Abdul Aziz-bin-Salim or Abdulla Hajri or Haji Ali, that he may be present at the inquiry with them; this will be as you please. Usual ending.

(3.)

Sheikh Mubarak to Major Knox.

(After compliments.) *7th Jumadi-al-Awwal*, 1326 H.

I HAVE taken with the hand of friendship your letter dated the 7th Jumadi-al-Awwal, and what you have mentioned has become known. Now, with regard to the Island of Warba, it is well known to all and sundry, and we will not write except the reality. Many of the Awazim will be found (as witnesses), and Haji Ali, according to the promise, to-morrow, at 3 o'clock, Arabic, will be present. Usual ending.

(Seal of Sheikh Mubarak.)

(4.)

Major Knox to Sheikh Mubarak.

(After compliments.) *7th Jumadi-al-Awwal*, 1326 H. (*June* 7, 1908).

YOUR letter dated the 7th Jumadi-al-Awwal reached me, and what you have written became known—about the Island of Warba, that it is well known to all and sundry and that your Honour will not write anything opposing truth. We do not doubt of that, but we wish to clear up the matter from the Awazim, whom your Honour sent with Haji Ali. With reference to the aforesaid Island of Warba, we have taken their answers, and they say that there are no fishing-nets on the Island of Warba and the fishing-nets are on Bubiyan, and they say that some of the Awazim people who have fishing-nets on Bubiyan have grants, written documents, wills of their people, and deeds of sale of the places of right to erect (fishing-nets) which are in Bubiyan, documents of the Shariat. Now it hoped from your Honour that you will send to us two or three of these documents that we may be informed of them. Usual ending.

Inclosure 6 in No. 15.

Major Cox to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Shiraz* (*Bushire*), *June* 30, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to refer to Captain Trevor's letter of the 17th instant, forwarding to Government copies of a report and inclosures from the Political Agent, Koweit,* on the subject of the rights of the Sheikhs of Koweit over Warba, Bubiyan, and the neighbourhood.

2. I have no special comment to offer at the present stage. The information now obtained seems satisfactory so far as it goes, but I am asking Major Knox, with the present data to go upon, to repeat his endeavours, by personal explanation, to arouse Sheikh Mubarak to specific effort in the direction of bringing to light ancient documents tending to support his claims.

Even if he has no old records in his own possession, one would suppose that old deeds of gift or lease of land and rights must be in existence among his relations or subjects, which would directly or indirectly prove the exercise of sovereign or proprietary rights by the Sheikhs of Koweit over the localities under reference.

Inclosure 7 in No. 15.

Captain Trevor to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Bushire, July* 7, 1908.

WITH reference to the correspondence ending with this Office letter dated the 30th June, 1908, regarding the rights of the Sheikhs of Koweit over the Islands of

* Inclosure 3

Warba and Bubiyan and their neighbourhood, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a letter from the Political Agent, Koweit.

Inclosure 8 in No. 15.

Major Knox to Major Cox.

Koweit, June 20, 1908.

IN continuation of my Confidential letter dated the 9th June, 1908, on the subject of the ownership of Warba Island, I have the honour to forward herewith copies, with translations, of the correspondence that has lately passed between myself and Sheikh Mubarak on this subject, in which Sheikh Mubarak shows that he no longer attaches importance to the question, while we neglect, as he imagines, his interests at Fao.

2. From later inquiries as to Ahmed-bin-Rizq, who is alleged to have dug the wells and built a fort at Umm Gasar, I find that such evidence as I have been able to obtain will make it extremely difficult to prove the man in question to be anything but a Turkish subject. He appears to have been a native of Nejd and to have led a wandering life, eventually retiring from business as a pearl merchant to Girdilan, close to Bussorah. Another Ahmed-bin-Rizq, deceased, has a grandson living, also named Ahmed, a fellah of Sheikh Mubarak's at Fao, but who served in the Turkish army. It is not an easy matter to get certain evidence on these points, but should further definite information be obtained by me it will at once be forwarded, and no effort will be spared to procure it.

Inclosure 9 in No. 15.

Major Knox to Sheikh Mubarak.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *Koweit, June* 23, 1908.

FORMERLY we asked your Honour that you should send to us two or three papers of the proofs that were with the Awazim who have fishing rights in Bubiyan, likewise the statement of the evidence of the Adsani, and you promised me in your letter dated the 14th Jamadi-al-Awwal (14th June, 1908) that you would send them to us, and up till now we see nothing. Please God that you will send them to us, for I have sent to the Government the information which I have obtained in that affair, and have promised them that I would complete it with the evidence of the Adsani aforesaid. Usual ending.

Inclosure 10 in No. 15.

Sheikh Mubarak to Major Knox.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *25th Jamadi-al-Awwal,* 1326 H.

I RECEIVED your letter dated the 24th Jamadi-al-Awwal, and what you have mentioned was made known. We have asked 'Ubaid-al-Gharaba.

There are no papers with them according to the statement of 'Ubaid-al-Gharaba, but their enjoyment of hundreds of years suffices, and the Kazi, at the time of necessity, will give a paper in which he certifies about their papers with reference to Bubiyan. Now, I do not see the necessity, for Bubiyan is in our hands and in the enjoyment of our subjects in their erection of fishing-nets and their settling down there and their occupation. The injury upon us is another matter in our hand, of which the revenue is thousands of pounds. Usual ending.

Inclosure 11 in No. 15.

Major Knox to Sheikh Mubarak.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *Koweit, June* 13, 1908.

WE inform your Honour regarding the deeds that are in the possession of the Awazim, wills from their people, and some proof of Shariat under the signature of the Adsani according to their saying regarding the places of erection of fishing-nets that are in Bubiyan, of which we formerly informed your Honour, and asked of your kindness that you should send to us two or three papers that we may be informed about them, and up till now we see nothing of them. Please God, you will now send to us the aforesaid papers, as also the statement of the evidence of the Adsani, and you will make us grateful and obliged to your Honour. Usual ending.

Inclosure 12 in No. 15.

Sheikh Mubarak to Major Knox.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *14th Jamadi-al-Awwal,* 1326 H. (*June* 14, 1908).

I HAVE taken with the hand of affection your letter dated the 13th Jamadi-al-Awwal, and what you have written is known to me. To-day, please God, we shall send for 'Ubaid-al-Gharaib (Sheikh of the Aghruba section of the Awazim) that he should bring to us what documents he can procure. Likewise we will send to the Sheikh of the Adsani and ask him about what is in his charge with regard to Agreements and wills. Usual ending.

[34876] No. 16.

Messrs. Frank C. Strick and Co. to Foreign Office.—(Received October 8.)

Sir, *Baltic House, Leadenhall Street, London, October* 7, 1908.

WITH reference to your letter of the 11th ultimo, in regard to the Islands of Sirri and Jezirat Nabiyu Tanb, we think it right to inform you that our steam-ship "Tabaristan" called at these islands last month on her way to Bussorah, to obtain samples of the red oxide deposits which were said to exist on these islands.

We inclose extract from the Captain's letter, from which you will notice that the inhabitants of Sirri consider themselves and the Island of Jezirat Nabiyu Tanb as being under the Governor of Lingah, whereas from your letter above referred to we gather that the rightful owner of both those islands is the Sheikh of Shargah.

What we should like to obtain is the mining rights on these islands, the Island of Nabiyu Farur, and other islands in that locality.

We could, of course, approach the Sheikh of Shargah either through our Bussorah manager or through one of our other representatives in the Persian Gulf, but before doing so (having regard to a letter which we received from His Majesty's India Office, dated the 21st August, 1907, in connection with the Island of Abu Musa, wherein they expressed a wish that we should take no action in the matter without consulting them) we wait to hear whether you have any particular wish as to how and when we should set about trying to obtain the Concession.

We should mention that it has come to our knowledge that other people in the Persian Gulf are aware of these oxide deposits, and it would be desirable in our interests that the matter should not be longer delayed than is absolutely necessary.

We have, &c.

(For Messrs. Frank C. Strick and Co., Limited),

(Signed) FRANK C. STRICK.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Captain F. Paton to Messrs. Frank C. Strick and Co.

(Extract.) *Bussorah, August* 28, 1908.

AS per your instructions, I called at the Island of Nabiyu Tanb on the 21st, arriving at the anchorage 3 P.M. I at once went ashore, taking some of the crew with me, and took some samples of the oxide from several spots. As far as I can judge, they do not seem to be of bad quality, but appear to be mostly on the surface. On digging down, we came to loose stones, which seem to be mixed with it. The getting of these seven samples took about 2½ hours, and just as it was getting dark we noticed that there was another hill of it away at the other end of the island, but the heat was so intense, and the walking so bad, that we were almost quite overcome, and had to return to the ship. There are no inhabitants on the island, and no wells of fresh water. I do not know if it is possible to dig any, but during the cool weather the island is pretty well covered with vegetation, so I should think it possible to do so.

The next morning I left at 2·45 for the Island of Sirri, arriving at the anchorage there 6·30 A.M. I intended to go on shore myself, but was still feeling the effects of the dreadful heat at Nabiyu Tanb, so I sent the chief officer, with the serang, one fireman, and a Persian steward (to interpret). After being away some two hours they returned, and had found it so fearfully hot that the chief officer fairly collapsed on the deck, and the others were nearly as bad. However, they brought four samples from one place where there was a good lot of the oxide showing. The chief officer tells me that on digging down to more than a depth of 2 feet they still found the oxide the same, so that I should think it would be a likely spot. I have rubbed out some of the samples, and, as far as I can judge, the colour and strength is fairly good, but of course I am not an expert.

We were anchored off the southern village of Sirri, in about 7 fathoms of water, the holding ground moderately good. There is plenty of water on this island, and quite a number of inhabitants. When we were there nearly all the men were away pearl fishing, and only the women and one or two of the old men left. They said the island was under the Government of Lingah (Persian), as is also Nabiyu Tanb. I do not think that oxide has ever been loaded there. These men also said that there was plenty of it at the northern end of the island, but the sailing directions state that there is very bad anchorage there. When leaving the island I steamed round there, and found that there were a good many reefs sticking out of the water to a distance of about half a-mile from the shore. However, there may be an anchorage between them.

After leaving Sirri I passed within a few miles of Nabiyu Farur, and by the look of the land there I should say there is oxide also. This is under the Governor of Lingah, the same as Farur, and most of the other islands in the neighbourhood. A much better survey could be made when the weather is more favourable.

[34884] No. 17.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 301.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 7, 1908.

IT is reported by the Consul-General at Smyrna that the Aidin Railway strike, and therefore fear of a general strike, is at an end.

[34200] No. 18.

Foreign Office to Lord Rathmore.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 9, 1908.

I AM directed by Sir Edward Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, inclosing a Resolution passed by your Council in regard to the condition of affairs at Smyrna, brought about by the strike of their employés.

His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has repeatedly urged the Sublime Porte to take the necessary measures for the protection of your Company's property,

but His Majesty's Government will not lose sight of the possibility that the presence of a British man-of-war may become desirable.

Sir E. Grey is glad, however, to learn that in the meantime the position has materially improved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS MALLET.

[31789] No. 19.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 424.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1908.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 545 of the 6th instant relative to the settlement of outstanding British claims against the Ottoman Government, and I note the steps which you have taken to carry out the instructions contained in my despatch No. 347 of the 25th ultimo.

I entirely concur in your Excellency's observations with regard to the claim put forward by the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company, Limited, on account of the recent attack on their steam-ship "Blosse Lynch," and have to request you, in the circumstances, not to press that claim officially on the Sublime Porte, but merely recall it to their notice in the most friendly manner.

Your Excellency should, at the same time, if you consider that any useful purpose would be served by such a step, suggest that the Valis of Bagdad and Bussorah should be warned of the serious consequences which might follow a further incident such as the attack on this vessel.

I transmit to your Excellency herewith copy of a letter which I have caused to be addressed to the Company on this subject.* No answer has been received.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[34854] No. 20.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1908.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 10th July last relative to the desire of the Italian Government to send an Agent to Muscat, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a letter from the Italian Ambassador on this subject.†

Sir E. Grey will be grateful for any observations Viscount Morley may have to offer on the reply that should be returned to his Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS MALLET.

[35261] No. 21.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 636.)
Sir, *Therapia, October* 6, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you herewith copies of despatches I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mosul and His Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad reporting on the progress of the constitutional movement in their districts.

There is an improvement discernible in the state of affairs, but it is evident that the branches of the League of Union and Progress in the valley of the Tigris are very different from the Central Committees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

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* To Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company, September 19, 1908.
† No. 14.

Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

Vice-Consul Young to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 3.)

Sir, *Mosul, August* 23, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency herewith a Memorandum with regard to the present state of affairs in this district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. E. WILKIE YOUNG.

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

Memorandum respecting the State of Affairs at Mosul.

THE state of affairs here, which has been one of uncertainty and at times of considerable anxiety, has improved during the past week.

Zuhdi Pasha, the Commandant, who has been in charge since the dismissal of Mustapha Beg, the ex-Vali, has displayed a degree of quiet firmness which has produced an excellent effect. By a timely warning to the disturbing elements and by the enforcement of strict police measures in the town, he has made it clear that the Government are determined to repress disorder.

The arrival of last mail, no doubt, with reliable news from Constantinople facilitated his task by dispelling the vague rumours and agitating suspense of the past three weeks. In this, the most remote province of the Empire, apart from the Consulates there is no reliable source of information, and the result of various wild rumours was a disposition among some of the lower-class Moslems, fostered by certain individuals in more responsible positions, to excite religious feeling against the Christians, of whom many were threatened and some beaten, and among whom in general a feeling of insecurity and nervousness prevailed.

On the 8th instant it was rumoured, and the attitude of a section of the Moslem population gave colour to the fear, that Mustapha Beg, who was threatened with expulsion, was trying to save his position by exciting animosity against the Christians. Authenticated utterances of the notorious Sabonji, his agent in such matters, were in the same key.

The dismissal of Mustapha Bey produced an excellent effect, but an address which was delivered in the court-yard of the barracks on the 15th and which wound up with a curse upon unbelievers revived anxiety. Bands of Moslem children, parading the streets and shouting insults against the Christians, were thought to prelude trouble. Nevertheless, thanks to the measures referred to, the Acting Vali will hand over to his successor with the knowledge that he leaves affairs in a more reassuring condition than he found them.

Zekki Pasha.—As reported by telegraph, Zekki Pasha, President of the Frontier Commission, left for Bagdad by raft on the 10th instant to take temporary command of the VIth Army Corps. On the 12th August news was received that Mustapha Beg, the Vali, had been dismissed and that Zekki Pasha was to take charge.

There being no means of stopping him by telegraph, horsemen were sent after him to bring him back. But Zekki Pasha had forty hours' start, and a full moon enabled his raft to travel night and day; so it is not surprising that, with the thermometer at 115° in the shade, the horsemen failed to overtake him, and that he reached Bagdad on the fifth day. His appointment as Governor-General at the present juncture is a bold experiment. Though better educated than most of his contemporaries—he speaks French and German fluently—and personally very agreeable, his enforced idleness during more than two years of quasi-exile, combined with his easy good nature, have driven him to an indiscriminating familiarity with all sorts of people, and it is difficult to believe that he will suddenly emerge a strong and independent Governor. His relations with the ex-Vali and his intimacy with Sabonji and others hardly less disreputable will make the beginning difficult. He is a native of Aleppo.

Attitude of Population towards Political Change.—The announcement of the revival of the Constitution has been received on the whole with a bad grace. The wonder and incredulity of the first few days were followed by a general desire to profit by the occasion to obtain the removal of the Vali, Mustapha Beg. The news of his dismissal called forth enthusiasm; prayers and thanksgivings were said in the mosques,

and many people made a pilgrimage to the shrine of Nebi Yunis for the same purpose. There was a display of flags in the city, and at night there were fireworks and illuminations.

Having obtained this personal satisfaction, however, people appear to interest themselves very little indeed in the changes which are taking place. On the contrary, the Moslems, who are a majority of 10 to 1, are opposed to a change in which they think they foresee danger to their hitherto unquestioned predominance; while the Christians, who have been long accustomed to a condition of complete subordination, have as yet hardly realized the significance of the new state of things.

A Moslem Committee has been formed, but its intention is not clear, and until now it does not appear to have received much support from the great Moslem families.

Elections.—No candidates have come forward, and the general attitude of the whole movement is one of cautious expectation. In certain quarters there is probably still a lurking hope that the old régime may be restored.

The Ex-Vali.—Mustapha Beg, the ex-Vali, is still here, but it is reported that he is practically under arrest, and that he is to be exiled to Diarbekir. But for the precautions of Zuhdi Pasha, the Acting Vali, it is more than likely that he would have been roughly handled if not expelled by force.

Political Prisoners.—Several "political" prisoners have been released during the past few days, amongst them an unfortunate Armenian boy, aged 16, who seems to have been sent here from Erzeroum on a political charge when only 12 years old. He left the prison for the first time the day before yesterday.

Exiles.—The only exile of note who profits by the amnesty is Bahri Pasha, General of Division, who was banished here from Diarbekir three years ago. A Georgian by birth (Prince Tavdgiridzi), he appears to have seen service upon every possible occasion during the last half of the nineteenth century, and to have been wounded again and again. He was some time Vali of Van and also of Scutari in Albania, and, while commanding the troops at Diarbekir, he was again for some months in charge of a vilayet. He is about 67, has great personal dignity, and gives an impression of straightforwardness and strength. He attributes his disgrace three years ago to his friendly relations with the British Vice-Consulate at Diarbekir, but it is not impossible that a family connection with the Bedr Khans had something to do with it.

Frontier Commission.—Abd-ul-Rahim Pasha having been recalled to Constantinople and Mustapha Beg to Angora (Zekki Pasha is now Vali), no member now remains here.

Condition of Vilayet.—The state of the vilayet is described as being worse than at any time within living memory. Not having left Mosul (city), I am unable to speak of the surrounding district from personal observation, but there seems to be little security for life or property anywhere, and caravan traffic is interrupted in various directions. In previous years it was the custom in summer, when the Tigris is low, to send gendarmes for the protection of certain fords which are favourite points of attack with marauding Arabs and Kurds. This year it has not been done, and the Arabs are reported to have practical control of the important caravan road in the neighbourhood of Eski-Mosul.

Some weeks ago the caravan of the ex-Vali's wife was partially pillaged within eight hours of the city. Within the past ten days a caravan was attacked and robbed in the neighbourhood of Suleimanieh and another between Suleimanieh and Kerkuk. Last week the brother of the Régie Mudir at Dehok was murdered three hours from Mosul. To-day there is a report—apparently true—of the murder by Kurds of two men at the village of Sigarek (six hours from Mosul).

On all sides there is evidence of the ex-Vali's unfortunate indifference to everything but the accumulation of money.

Tiari and Berwari.—During the week ending the 1st August it was persistently rumoured that there was trouble in the neighbourhood of Amadia between the Nestorian Christians of the Tiari district and the Berwari Kurds. But transient disturbances of the peace in that direction are not uncommon, and it was not until the 3rd August that reliable information was received indicating trouble calling for immediate measures of repression on the part of the Van and Mosul authorities.

On the following day (the 4th August) it was reported (correctly) that both sides were assembling in the neighbourhood of the Zab, and a big engagement seemed imminent. It became known that the Kurds were receiving reinforcements from the Zibar, Muzuri, Herki, Doski, Goli, and other tribes.

The measures taken by the Mosul authorities until then were not reassuring. According to the Vali's statement (the 5th August), ninety gendarmes had been sent in the direction of Amadia, but, on various pretexts, twenty of these had returned.

Moreover, the officer in charge, Tahir Aghasi Tewfik Bey, was a notorious fanatic who —it has since transpired—sided openly with the Kurds, and, by the ruse of ordering a charge to be sounded, scared the inhabitants of several Nestorian villages into flight. The villages were thereupon sacked and burnt by the Kurds.

As a result, presumably, of instructions received from Constantinople, measures were taken at the eleventh hour to induce the Chiefs to withdraw. Thanks to these measures the losses on both sides only amounted to about eight killed. The number of villages destroyed by the Kurds is variously stated at six and nine.

As usual in Kurdish warfare, the loss of life is trifling as compared with the numbers engaged; but villages are sacked, crops and property destroyed, and the result is an increase of misery during the ensuing winter for the inhabitants, whose normal condition is poverty and oppression.

It is stated that Sheikh Abd-ul-Salaam, who enjoys the confidence of both parties to the quarrel referred to above, has been requested to act as arbitrator between them.

Referring to the persecution of the Yezidis in this district by Sheikh Nor-el-Din and his people, as reported in a despatch from this Vice-Consulate of the 3rd June last, news arrived to-day to the effect that Ali Pasha, Chief of all the Yezidis, had made peace with his old enemy and persecutor. Visits are being exchanged, and valuable gifts in kind, *e.g.*, horses, sheep, "abbas" (cloaks), rice, &c.

Mosul, August 22, 1908.

Inclosure 3 in No. 21.

Major Ramsay to Government of India.

Bagdad, August 31, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter dated the 24th August, I have the honour to report that the chief interest of the past week centres in the Committee of Union and Progress. I inclose a list of the chief members of the Committee.

This Committee appears to be recognized by the Government, as it has been accorded the right of sending telegrams free of charge, it placards the town with notices, and it formally addresses the Vali on matters of interest. It has succeeded in making itself feared, but I think that it does not command the respect of the more sober and sensible men who are in favour of a constitutional form of Government. Several persons who have long been working for the Young Turk party at some risk to themselves rather resent the noisy patriotism of the Bagdad Committee.

During the last week the Committee has brought about the fall of the President of the Municipality of Bagdad, by name Abdul Rahman Pasha. This man had a firm supporter in Vali Hazim Bey, and it was known that Nazim Pasha, the present Vali, was against him. It is said that Nazim Pasha did not like to turn out Abdul Rahman Pasha for fear that it might be said that he had been actuated by a feeling of personal dislike to Hazim Bey, but that he willingly accepted the recommendation of the Committee. On the fall of Abdul Rahman Pasha, Nazim Pasha nominated as President of the Municipality one Issa Effendi, Jamilzada, but the Committee refused to have this man, and the Vali then proposed as President Rifat Effendi. His nomination was approved by the Committee, but I understand that Rifat Effendi is at Hilla and is not anxious to return to Bagdad at present. I do not know who is managing the affairs of the municipality now, but if Abdul Rahman Pasha can fairly be judged by results he deserves to be dismissed.

The Committee has recommended to the Grand Vizier the dismissal of Najm-ud-Din, the Kazi of Bagdad. It is said that he can scarcely read or write, and that he owes his appointment to the fact that he is the uncle of the Sheikh-ul-Islam. I hear to-day that the Kazi, to avoid dismissal, has resigned. I do not think that he will be a serious loss to the administration of the country; he could not speak the language of the country, and never appeared to be a man of intelligence.

Atta Effendi, the Mudir of the police, is another man who has been complained against by the Committee. It is said that he owes his position to the fact that his brother is the steward of Abul Huda. He also will be no loss to the administration.

Mumtaz Bey, the Muawan (Deputy or Assistant of the Vali), is another man against whom the Committee has complained. He only talks Turkish, but otherwise I have no

reason to think that he is not an efficient man. Some people say that he is a good man and intelligent. I have not heard whether he has been dismissed or not.

2. The Committee has frequent meetings, but no one seems able to take the lead, and the more sensible members are shouted down by the young officers, who say that they have the army behind them and that they can practically do what they think fit. It is said that a member of the Central Committee is shortly coming to Bagdad to assist the local Committee, and it will be a very good thing if he arrives soon, for the dominant party at present appears to have neither policy nor experience, and to think that the most important duty of a citizen is to turn out those who are in authority.

3. There is an inclination to show practical dislike to those who do not enthusiastically hail the Committee as the saviours of the country. Amongst these are the Nakib and a good many others of good position. I understand that the Nakib has received a notice that things will be made very disagreeable for him if he, or some of his family, do not join the Committee. I hear that the Nakib replied that he had no objection to some of his family joining, if they were politely asked to do so. There has already been a sort of anti-Nakib demonstration outside his house, and some people proposed even to do violence to his person. If anything of this sort is attempted it will probably lead to serious trouble, as the Nakib has many supporters, especially among the inhabitants of the Sheikh quarter, which is the most turbulent quarter of the town.

4. Hassan Bey, the President of the Committee, is said to have gone to thank the Armenian Bishop for the assistance which the Young Turk party has received from the Armenians.

5. This morning Notices issued by the Committee and printed in Arabic at the vilayet press have been placarded in the town. A gist of the Notice is that in the past there was no justice, animals were seized, cultivators were robbed and kept in debt, and the police helped the robbers and imprisoned the innocent. The Notice goes on to point out that in future all religions should join in support of the Parliament, that Members of Parliament need not be men of high social rank, but that they should be chosen for their abilities and honesty; that every one should join the Committee and help it, as its sole object is to work for the good of the country. A comparison is then made between Bagdad of the present day and Bagdad of the glorious past, and all persons are exhorted to prevent the officials from exercising further tyranny.

6. To-morrow is the anniversary of the Sultan's accession to the throne, and in the ordinary course all the Consuls will go to pay the Vali an official visit. I hear that the Committee has discussed the advisability of having some sort of demonstration on the arrival of the Consuls—friendly to the British Consul-General and the French Consul, and unfriendly to the Russian Consul-General and the German Consul—but that on the whole they are against carrying out this idea. I hope that nothing of the sort will happen.

7. I think that there is a greater feeling of unrest and uncertainty than there was last week, and I think it would be a very good thing if we had a Vali and Commander of the VIth Army Corps whose position with the dominant party was unquestionable. Such high officials might be able to govern; the present Vali can only temporize, and practically do what the Committee tells him to do. Still, as a matter of fact, Bagdad is quiet.

8. I inclose paragraphs 1 and 2 of Mr. Vice-Consul's Young's Report dated the 19th August.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. RAMSAY, *Major, Political Resident in Turkish Arabia, and His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Bagdad.*

Inclosure 4 in No. 21.

List of Members of Committee of Union and Progress.

Artillery.—

Bimbashi Amin Feizi.
Ahmed Effendi, Secretary in the office of the artillery.

Cavalry.—

Bimbashi Hassan Beg, President of the Executive Committee
Meer Alai Zahid Beg.
Nouri Effendi, Secretary in the office of the cavalry.

Infantry.—Yuzbashi Showket Effendi.

Staff Corps.—
Muhammad Effendi, Mamevis.
Yuzbashi Rashid Effendi, Treasurer to the Executive Committee.

Army Surgeons.—
Snatni Beg.
Zehni Effendi.

Commissariat Department.—Abdulrezzak Effendi.

Military School.—
Kolaghasi Fuad Effendi.
Mukhtar Beg, Director of the school.

Civil Officers.—
Muktoobchi.
Derwish Effendi, Secretary to the Muktoobchi.
Saleh Effendi, of the Sharah Court.
Abdul Kerim Effendi, of the Public Instruction Department.
Kolaghasi Hilmi Effendi, Director of the Saniya Department.
Zabit Ibrahim Edham Effendi, of the Saniya Department.
Belikjian Effendi, of the Public Debt Department.
Sevian Bey, of the Régie Department.
Ahmed Effendi, of the Customs Department.
Sheikh Nuri Effendi, Director of Civil Hospital.
Jemil Effendi, Mufti Zada.

Miscellaneous.—
Ferid Effendi, lawyer, Turkish Secretary to the Committee.
Nahim Effendi, lawyer (a Jew).
Ma'roof Effendi, teacher, Turkish Secretary to the Committee.
Mehran Effendi, teacher, French Secretary to the Committee.
Jergus Kayyat, merchant.
Iskender Daoud Messeyah, merchant.
Murad Beg, landed proprietor.
Muhammad Sa'id Dollah, landed proprietor.

Inclosure 5 in No. 21.

Extract from Vice-Consul Young's Report, dated Mosul, August 19, 1908.

THE state of affairs here is one of uncertainty, and there have been moments when it has given rise to considerable anxiety. The self-constituted "Committee" holds ineffective meetings in public in one of the principal coffee-shops, but enjoys neither respect nor authority, and is probably not very certain of its own intentions. It is precisely the absence of responsible leaders which constitutes a danger if anything should occur to arouse religious feelings.

2. The announcement of the revival of the Constitution has on the whole been received with a bad grace. The wonder and incredulity of the first few days were followed by a general desire to profit by the occasion to obtain the removal of Mustapha Bey, the Governor-General. The news of its accomplishment called forth considerable enthusiasm; prayers and thanksgivings were said in the mosques, and many people made a pilgrimage to the shrine at Nebi Yunis for the same purpose. There was a display of flags in the city, and at night there were fireworks and illuminations.

Having obtained this personal satisfaction, however, the people have shown no further interest in the changes which appear to be going forward. The proportion of Moslems to Christians in the city is about ten to one. Far from being enthusiastic over the prospects of liberty, fraternity, and a Parliament to redress their grievances, this great majority are strongly opposed to a change in which they think they foresee a very real danger to Moslem supremacy.

Inclosure 6 in No. 21.

Major Ramsay to Government of India.

Bagdad, September 7, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter dated the 31st August, 1908, I have the honour to report that a member of the Committee of Union and Progress came to me and said that the chief members of the Committee wished to call on me and thank me. I replied that I had done nothing to deserve thanks, that if the Committee wished to come and see me, I should of course be glad to receive them, but that I was afraid I was unable to sympathize with all that they had been doing. Finally it was agreed that they should come on the 2nd September and have tea in the garden. About ten or a dozen members came, and the President, Bimbashi Hassan Bey, expressed gratitude for the assistance which the Young Turkey party had received from the British Government. I replied that I was not aware that my Government had actually assisted the Young Turk party, but that my instructions were that the British Government would give all reasonable support to the Liberal party as long as it was moderate and tended towards good government. I said that as it was being given out in Bagdad that the British Government was supporting the Liberal party, whether rightly or wrongly, it was clear that, in the eyes of the people of Bagdad, the British Representative would be to a certain extent responsible for what the Young Turks did, and I therefore felt that I had a right to speak openly.

I begged the Committee to be moderate, to remember that nothing they could do at Bagdad could be of much use to their party, but that they could easily embarrass the Central Committee by creating disturbances; to be careful not to rouse opposition by taking up a hostile attitude towards those members of the community who did not quite agree with their views; to avoid anything that was likely to excite the uneducated public; to support the Governor for the time being; and generally to confine their attentions to observing and reporting to Constantinople. I was glad to find that the advice I gave them was repeated in the last copy of the "Mechweret," which was to be printed at Paris, and which arrived in Bagdad on the 3rd September. Only one man seemed at all inclined to dispute what I said. He justified what the Committee had done in the matter of the President of the municipality by saying that the supporters of the old régime were trying to use the municipality as a means of getting a particular man elected as Member of Parliament. I said that if that was the case they were no doubt right in trying to protect their own interests, besides which the people of Bagdad had every right to criticize the administration of the Bagdad municipality. The same member then tried to defend the act that had been made against the Nakib, but here he seemed on less firm ground, and it is notorious that he is actuated by some personal enmity of long standing. I said that it was very foolish to openly declare war on the Nakib, who, with his supporters, was a very powerful man, and that I felt that I had a right to object to such a course, because I was sure that it would lead to disturbances in which British subjects and British interests might suffer.

I hear that since the visit to the Residency there have been several meetings of the Committee, and they have decided to write to the Vali and point out that the Nakib should not attend the Administrative Council, as he is not an elected member, nor is he, according to the law, an *ex-officio* member. I believe the Committee have added that their objection is not to the Nakib as an individual, but to the principle of a man sitting on the Committee who is not legally entitled to do so.

2. The Committee is divided into Moderates and Extremists. The latter are anxious to pursue a number of officials of whom they do not approve—that is to say, whom they do not like; they wish to excite the public mind by speeches and pamphlets, and they speak in bitter terms of the Moderates as if they were spies and supporters of the old form of Government. It is possible that the Committee may split, but I hope that this can be avoided, as there would then be no check on the Extremists, and though Bagdad is usually quiet there are ample materials to make very serious disturbances.

3. I have not returned the call of the President or members of the Committee, and it is not my present intention to do so, as I have no wish to be too closely connected with them. After seeing the Committee I sent a message to the Nakib that I had advised moderation, and that I hoped this would be shown on both sides, as any excesses would endanger British interests. I understand that the Nakib is keeping very quiet, and waiting to see what time will bring forth at Constantinople.

4. The Kadhi of Bagdad has left Bagdad privately, and the Mudir of the Police has been dismissed.

5. On the 1st September the Vali, the Commander-in-chief, and the leading officials all swore to be faithful to the Constitution. The Nakib and, I understand, most of the Ulema did not go to the reception, because, I understand, they wished to avoid taking an oath.

6. The Nazir of the Public Debt is temporarily in charge of the municipality.

7. Mr. Young, writing to me on the 2nd September, says: "One of my servants was beaten, quite without provocation as far as I can ascertain, by a Turkish officer and three soldiers the other day. It is one of nearly a dozen cases in which Christians have been roughly handled by Moslems in the market during the last fortnight. The fact of its being my servant makes it particularly annoying. The Vali promises to do his best, but is obviously afraid of a certain fanatical section of the population." Mosul is unfortunately a most fanatical place, and one in which Christians and Jews can get practically no justice.

8. The French Consul went to a meeting of the Young Turk Committee and made a speech.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. RAMSAY, *Major, Political Resident in Turkish Arabia, and His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Baydad.*

[35263] No. 22.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 638.)
Sir, *Constantinople, October* 6, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 454 of the 7th August, I have the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus reporting on the weakness of Ibn Rashid and the supremacy of Ibn Saoud in the Nejd.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Consul Devey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 48.)
Sir, *Damascus, September* 23, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 27 of the 24th July last, I have the honour to report that Saoud Ibn Rashid, since murdering his brother Sultan and succeeding him in the Emirate of Hail, has shown neither courage nor aptitude for administration, so that most of his allies among the subtribes of Shammer deserted him, and some of them are even intriguing against him, especially the powerful Sebhan, a clan of Shammer, who have already made a raid with a view to overthrow him and restore the post to the young boy Saoud Ibn Abdul-Aziz Ibn Rashid, refugee in Medina, referred to in my despatch under reference; and thus at present the rulership of Saoud Ibn Rashid is confined in the town of Hail with no influence whatever beyond its limits.

Abdul-Aziz Ibn Saoud has become practically the undisputed Emir of Nejd, with his ascendancy recognized in Riadh, Kassim, and all the Bedouin tribes of Nejd. Even Saoud Ibn Rashid himself admits that his Emirate of Hail is only a vassalage under the suzerainty of Ibn Saoud.

With new Governors appointed in the Hejaz and the railway now completed, and with the new conditions obtaining, there appear no symptoms of any disposition to open fresh relations between Nejd and Turkey on either side. Matters would seem likely to remain as heretofore, at all events for the present; but if the child Ibn Rashid be sent from Medina opportunity might offer for Turkish intrigue with the Regent or Regents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

[35265] No. 23.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 640.)
Sir, *Constantinople, October* 7, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Acting Consul at Jeddah, reporting on the affairs of the Hedjaz, and the finding of compromising correspondence in the late Vali's effects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Acting Consul Hussain to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 47.)
Sir, *Jeddah, September* 22, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to report that the first caravan of 2,000 camels left this town on the 17th instant after the robbery reported in my despatch No. 44 of the 9th of this month.

One hundred regular and 150 Shereefian soldiers (Bisha) having been sent here from Mecca at the request of the Jeddah Kaimakam, the caravan that left on the 17th and those leaving Jeddah after that date are being provided with strong guard, and no fears are being entertained of any further attacks as long as the present precautions are continued.

It appears that the troubles given by the Jidaan tribe, who inhabit the sea coast to the north of Jeddah, are due to their discontent from the Grand Shereef and his Kaimakams, who are in habit of extorting from this tribe more than 25,000 dollars every year under different pretexts.

They are discontented with their present Sheikh too, who has been appointed by the present Grand Shereef, and whom he employs as his tool of oppression.

The object of this tribe, by committing raids on the caravans, is a protest to the Turkish authorities against the misdeeds of the Grand Shereef and his satellites, and also a sort of revenge, as the tribe enjoys the booty, and the Grand Shereef is made to pay the indemnity to the sufferers of these raids.

It is also reported that the Harb tribes, inhabiting between Medina and Rabuck, had sent their representatives to meet Kiazim Pasha at Medina at the time of the opening ceremony of the Hedjaz Railway, and given assurances of their loyalty to the Sultan, and promises not to interfere in the construction of the railway from Medina to Mecca. It is also rumoured that they have also informed Kiazim Pasha that up to that time they have been acting under the instructions of Ahmed Ratib Pasha and the Grand Shereef, who were against the prolongation of the line to Mecca, and that their opposition ceases with the cessation of the old régime.

These Sheikhs returned to their tribes with presents of money from the Turkish Government, and promises of yearly allowances to be paid regularly in return to their peaceful attitude towards the railway and keeping the roads open.

The roads between Rabuck and Medina are now open, and the caravans pass freely.

Since the arrival of soldiers from Mecca, the confidence of the people in the security of this town has been restored, and everything seems quiet and normal.

Kiazim Pasha is expected to arrive in a few days from Haifa by the steam-ship "Angora," to receive whom a party of eight, including the nephew of the Grand Shereef, has arrived from Taif.

It is also rumoured that Ahmed Ratib Pasha, the ex-Vali of Hedjaz, is to be sent to Constantinople by the same ship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. M. HUSSAIN.

[34876] No. 24.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1908.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, the accompanying copy of a letter from Messrs. F. C. Strick and Co. (Limited),* inquiring how they should set about obtaining Mining Concessions on the Islands of Sirri, Little Tamb, and Nabiyu Farur, and on other islands which they do not expressly specify.

Sir E. Grey does not consider that His Majesty's Government can support Messrs. Strick at Sirri, since on the 19th September last His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran was instructed to inform the local agent of Messrs. Hadji, Ali, Akbar, and Co., of Manchester, that no objection would be taken by His Majesty's Government to his application for a Concession on that island from the Persian Government.

As regards Little Tamb, Sir E. Grey proposes to inform Messrs. Strick that His Majesty's Government will support their request for a Concession; and, if Lord Morley concurs, he proposes to add that negotiations should be conducted with the Sheikh of Shargah through the British Resident.

Sir E. Grey assumes that Nabiyu Farur is within Persian jurisdiction, but he would be glad to be furnished with the observations of Lord Morley on this point, and also in regard to the reply which should be made to Messrs. Strick concerning their desire for a Concession on this island.

As to the other islands in the locality to which Messrs. Strick refer, Sir E. Grey proposes to reply that no information can be given by this Department until the particular islands concerned are definitely indicated.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS MALLET.

[34892] No. 25.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1908.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant on the subject of the rights of the Sheikh of Koweit to the islands of Bubiyan and Warba.

I am to state, in reply, that Sir E. Grey considers that it would be inadvisable, in present circumstances, to raise the question of the Sheikh's rights to either island.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS MALLET.

[36110] No. 26.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 648.)

Sir, *Therapia, October* 9, 1908.

IN my despatches Nos. 544 and 605 of the 5th and 23rd ultimo, I had the honour to forward to you copies of despatches from His Majesty's Consul-General at Beirout reporting on the agitation which was going on among the inhabitants of the Lebanon in favour of the new constitutional régime and of sending Deputies to the Turkish Parliament, which is shortly to meet.

I have now the honour to transmit two further Reports from Mr. Cumberbatch, from which you will perceive that the agitation has gradually veered round and that the movement to send members to the Parliament is replaced by one to protest against any election being held.

In fact, during the last few days this and the French Embassy have been inundated with telegrams from the various towns of the Lebanon complaining of the Governor-General, who has, they say, issued orders that the elections shall take place.

* No. 16.

On inquiring at the Porte on the subject, I am told that no instructions had been sent for the holding of elections; but it appears that the Circular telegrams which were addressed to all the Valis of the Empire were also sent to Youssouf Franco Pasha, and it is on these that he is basing his present action.

He is, Mr. Cumberbatch states, now convinced that the great majority of the inhabitants are against the substitution for their present régime of the general Constitution, and he believes the present agitation will calm down; but it is evident that he is a weak man and ill-suited for his position. There can be no doubt that the administration of the province has become markedly less efficient under his direction, and a wise Governor would have no difficulty in avoiding the present dilemma. It is not possible at this moment, when the Porte is so fully engaged with questions of far greater weight, to trouble them with such minor matters as this of Lebanon; otherwise, though there might be some reluctance to state categorically that the Lebanon, as a privileged province, is not to be represented in the General Parliament, yet it would probably be overcome without much difficulty.

As it is, I have consulted with my French colleague, who, however, takes but a very languid interest in the question, and we have telegraphed to our Consuls at Beirout, pointing out that if there is a party which insists on sending Deputies to the Parliament it is not possible to stop it, but that it will be for the Parliament to examine into the legality of such elections, and if the Deputies insist on maintaining the privileges which they at present enjoy their election will probably be cancelled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Consul-General Cumberbatch to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 65.)

Sir, *Beirout, September* 18, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 64 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to report that the deputation from the newly formed Liberal party of the Lebanon proceeded to Beteddinn on the 12th instant and presented the Governor-General with the five demands enumerated in my above-mentioned despatch. The deputation was composed of about twelve of the leaders of the movement for "reforms," the five principal ones being Nessib Bey Djumblatt and Mir Shekib Arslan for the Druses, Canaan Bey Dabir and Habib Pasha Saad for the Maronites, and Faris Effendi Musherek for the Greek Orthodox. Youssouf Pasha, instigated by some of those Government officials who foresaw their own downfall owing to the deputation being composed of personal enemies of theirs, at first declined to recognize the representative character of the deputies. This led to an interchange of somewhat excited words and to a flat refusal on the part of the Governor-General to comply with any of their demands.

The deputation, followed by a large crowd which had assembled on hearing of the nature of their mission, went to the telegraph office to communicate with the Ottoman Committee at Salonica, and the next day they held an exciting meeting in the open.

In the meantime the crowd, consisting principally of Druses, having increased, Youssouf Pasha was advised to give in by the officers commanding the Turkish military reinforcements of the Beteddin troops, who, of course, sympathized with the demonstrations, and on the 13th instant his Excellency recalled the deputies, who, after receiving his excuses for his rude behaviour the day before, made him take the oath of fidelity to the Constitution, and then compelled him to promise as follows:—

1. To proclaim the Constitution forthwith.
2. To procure the necessary sanction of the Ottoman Government to the dissolution of the Administrative Council and the election of new members on a reformed electoral basis.
3. To reorganize the finances through the new Administrative Council.

As to the question of dismissals, which would appear to be the real motive of the so-called patriotic movement, the Pasha was coerced into the immediate removal of the following high officials, who are all personal rivals of one or other of the members of the deputation:—

1. Mir Kabelan Aboulema (Maronite), Vice-President of the Administrative Council.
2. Sheikh Reschid Khazin (Maronite), Kaïmakam of Batroun.
3. Mir Tewfik Arslan (Druse), Kaïmakam of Shouf.
4. Mustapha Bey Amad (Druse), President of Criminal Court of Appeal.
5. Nassif Bey Reiss (Greek Orthodox), Chief of the Turkish Bureau.

The question of Parliamentary representation, unless it is to be considered as naturally involved in the application of the Constitution to the Lebanon (which is not the avowed intention of the reformers), was not specially referred to or insisted upon in the shape it was originally intended that it should be.

Had the deputation confined itself to the first three demands enumerated above, and simply insisted upon the dismissal of unworthy officials after inquiry into their antecedents, there is no doubt that their action would have met with universal approval; but, by forcing the Governor-General, under threats of demonstrations on the part of armed mountaineers, to remove certain officials in whom he had confidence, and whose chief crime would appear to be that they are their personal opponents, the deputies unmistakably showed that their main object was to cause the downfall of their rivals and to take their places. This has not been long in showing itself, for on the 16th instant I received a letter dated the 13th, the very day of the *coup* from Nessib Bey Djumblatt on behalf of himself and Mir Mustapha, the other Druse leader, asking me to support the candidature of Mir Shekib Arslan, nephew of Mir Mustapha, and the chief spokesman of the deputation, for the post of Kaïmakam of Shouf; and of Mahmoud Bey Djumblatt, a relation of Nessib Bey himself, for the presidency of the Court of Appeal. I was also asked to approve the appointment of Habib Pasha Saad to the vacant vice-presidency.

My reply has been to the effect that I could not lend myself to the dismissal of high Government officials enjoying the confidence and friendly support of this Consulate-General in such an arbitrary and unjust manner, and still less to support the candidature of their successors.

The action of the deputation in taking advantage of their mandate to force the dismissal of these high functionaries has evoked expressions of disapproval on all sides, even among leading Maronites and Druses, and it will probably lead to counter-demonstrations instigated by the Maronite partizans of Mir Kabelan.

I hear to-day that Nassif Bey Reiss, who is perhaps the one most disliked and feared by the Liberal party, has been reinstated through the personal intervention of the leader of the "Freemasons," whose cause he upheld in the time of the late Governor-General.

Mustapha Bey Amad has refused to resign, as called upon by the Pasha to do, and insists upon an inquiry into the allegations brought against him.

The vice-presidency of the Council has been given to Selim Bey Amoon, and the Shouf Kaïmaikamlik to Emir Shekib Arslan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

Consul-General Cumberbatch to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 66.)
Sir, *Beirout, September 25, 1908.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 65 of the 18th instant, I have to report that the agitation in the Lebanon for an expression of public opinion against the action of the deputation to the Governor-General has increased during the last few days.

The prime movers of this counter-demonstration are, as was to be expected, the friends of the five dismissed officials whose arbitrary removal has created a great stir.

Though this question, which is of a purely personal interest, agitates people's minds more than the important principles involved in the other demands of the deputation, there is a growing feeling that in insisting upon the proclamation of the Constitution, which has since been carried out by the Governor-General, the Lebanon risks that such a measure, whether followed by the election of Deputies or not, may be considered by the Ottoman Government and the Powers as tantamount to a denunciation of its special privileges, and that, unless some pronouncement is made by the Ottoman Govern-

ment assuring the maintenance of these privileges, the Constitution should be rejected *in toto*.

With this end in view the movers of the counter-action are sending deputations, calling meetings, and drawing up Petitions to protest against the action of the members of the Liberal party, under whose auspices the deputation to the Governor-General acted, and whom they do not recognize as representing the majority of the inhabitants of the mountain.

On the other hand, the Governor-General, who would seem to have lost all control over affairs, is being secretly pressed by the Committee of Union and Progress at Beirout to take steps for Parliamentary elections as the natural consequence of the proclamation of the Constitution by the Lebanese Government—under public demand—after nearly two months of inaction on the part of the authorities.

In this manner the question is bound, sooner or later, to come before the Ottoman Government and the Embassies, in some shape or other, for an expression of views, and it is my humble opinion that, unless your Excellency and the other Ambassadors decide to settle the question, after, of course, satisfying yourselves that the general wish of the inhabitants is in favour of the maintenance of their special privileges, the Ottoman Government is likely to allow things to take their course towards Parliamentary representation and submit the question to the Assembly to decide, should any Deputies from the Lebanon present themselves to take their seats.

With my French and Russian colleagues I have carefully abstained from interference or from expressing any opinion likely to influence the action of the people one way or the other, but we have all along advised pacific methods in obtaining the objects in view.

In conversation with leading men of all sects who have sought our friendly advice we have hinted at the possibility, in our private opinion, of the application of the Constitution to the Lebanon being considered incompatible with the maintenance of the special privileges.

As regards the second of the three "demands" pressed upon Youssouf Pasha by the deputation, it is reported that the Grand Vizier, to whom his Excellency had immediately telegraphed for permission to dissolve the Administrative Council and elect new members, replied to the effect that it was not the right moment for such a drastic measure.

With reference to the third "demand" imposed on Youssouf Pasha, his Excellency has ordered the withdrawal of the 1½ piastre tax for receipts and the tax on Petitions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

P.S. *September 26.*—Since writing the above, two deputations, one entirely Maronite and the other composed of every sect in the Lebanon, have called at this Consulate-General to express their disapproval, and that of many others of the action of the Beteddin deputation in demanding the enforcement of the Constitution, and a copy of the telegram addressed to your Excellency and the Ambassadors of the other Powers on the 22nd instant by a non-political and newly formed Association who are opposed to the acceptance of the Parliamentary representation, as, according to them, it affects their special privileges, has also been handed to me, as well as a numerously and influentially signed Petition, which is probably the forerunner of many more similar protests against the acceptance of the Constitution, unless their special privileges are guaranteed intact.

H. A. C.

[36112] No. 27.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October 19.*)

(No. 650.)
Sir, *Therapia, October 9, 1908.*

THE reports which I have received in the last fortnight from His Majesty's Consular officers in the Asiatic provinces continue to show, on the whole, a satisfactory state of things, with the exception of the town of Smyrna, on which I am sending a report separately.

Tahir Pasha, the new Vali of Erzeroum, has reached his post, and although, on account of his services under the old régime, he is regarded with a certain

amount of mistrust, yet it is resolved to give him a fair trial. At present all is quiet there.

The operations against the Dersim Kurds have been intrusted to General Ali Pasha, under whose leadership an early settlement of the matter is expected. The latest news from the Dersim was dated on the 7th ultimo, when it was reported that a concentration of some thirty battalions had been effected in the very heart of the Dersim country. The Dersimlis had offered to make their submission, but it was not thought that their misdeeds had been sufficiently punished. It appears also that the offer was accompanied by a refusal to disarm.

The Kurdish tithe farmers in the Sanjak of Bitlis are still continuing their extortionate proceedings, and I have caused representations to be made on the subject at the Sublime Porte. I gather that the Central Government are loth to interfere in the matter, and prefer to leave it to be settled locally by the new Vali and the financial authorities, and I have instructed Mr. Safrastian to use his influence in that direction. Under the old régime, Ferid Pasha, when Grand Vizier, endeavoured to rectify this matter, but was unable, and it is probable that the local authorities will be best able to deal with it.

There has been one murder near Bitlis, but active steps have been taken to arrest the offenders.

The state of affairs in Mush seems altogether satisfactory.

Ali Bey, the corrupt Vali of Van, has been dismissed, and left with considerable ignominy for the governorship of Kastamouni, the people of which place are protesting against his appointment.

Two Armenian revolutionary chiefs, Doctor and Serkis, have made their submission to the Government. A service for the souls of those killed in the massacres was largely attended by Moslems as well as Christians.

At Kharput the League has things well in hand, and is taking energetic measures to insure tranquillity in the province by sending messages to all the kazas, telling the people to start branch Committees and to maintain friendly relations with the Christians.

His Majesty's Consul at Damascus reports that far the greater part of the higher classes, consisting of the civil and military officers and the Notables and the merchants and the Ulema have now pledged themselves to support the new régime. There have been no signs of bigotry or fanaticism, although Damascus is one of the principal seats of Moslem theological and legal learning. The Ulema indorse the principles of a Constitution, and are not forgetful of Midhat Pasha's efforts to introduce better education. Clubs are being formed to propagate the ideas of the League, whose local leaders are reported to have acted with the greatest tact, discretion, and moderation, and without any trace of ambition or self-seeking. There is, of course, great ignorance as to the material means by which the benefits flowing from a Constitutional Government are to be obtained.

Affairs in the town and Vilayet of Beyrout have been going on quietly and smoothly, though the administrative machinery is still somewhat dislocated and there is still a feeling of uncertainty and expectancy abroad. The only positive improvement noticeable in the Administration is in the gendarmerie and police, who are under the direct control of the local Committee.

In the Sanjak of Jerusalem the belief is still current among the peasantry that Constitution means freedom from taxation; but there are no signs of reaction in the feeling of equality for all classes.

No tangible results, Mr. Bleech writes, of the new order of things can be expected until the new Government has had time to acquaint itself with local circumstances and requirements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[36114] No. 28.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 653.)
Sir, *Constantinople, October 11, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith two despatches from Mr. Consul-General Barnham, at Smyrna, the first reporting on the state of things in the town as being very bad, and the second reporting the finish of the fourth outbreak of the strike and an improved state of affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

Consul-General Barnham to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 105. Confidential.)
Sir, *Smyrna, October 6, 1908.*

I HAVE to-day ventured to telegraph to your Excellency suggesting that it would be well if a cruiser could be stationed within easy call of Smyrna in view of the threatening aspect of affairs. It was reported to me yesterday that during the past few days a considerable number of revolvers and some guns had been purchased by the Mahommedans.

Shortly afterwards I called upon the Vali about the affairs of the Aidin Railway, and I took the opportunity of mentioning this. The Vali appeared to be considerably perturbed at the news, and sent for the Chief of Police, who replied that under the new order of things every one was free to buy a revolver, but that the fact of extensive purchases made by the Moslems had not come to his knowledge.

However, the fact is beyond question, as I have confirmed it independently.

It would appear that the Moslems, reflecting upon the general situation—strikes on every hand, and acts of violence committed by the strikers, Greeks or Italians, which remain unpunished—naturally conclude that there is no government at all, and have armed in self-defence.

They are not ill-disposed to Christians, to whom many of them are bound by strong personal interest.

The general outlook is, however, bad. There are agitators here, newspaper editors and others, who, for the sake of a little popularity, are ready to stir up trouble at any moment. They have stood in the back ground fomenting the Aidin Railway strike, and now we hear rumours that a general strike of both Railway Companies and other workmen is to be arranged for next week.

It is well that the garrison has been strengthened to a total of 1,300. Troops have been found for the protection of the Aidin Railway, and for service at Vourla and other places where there has been trouble, but the Vali is not quite the man to govern Smyrna at such a critical time. We require a younger and more energetic Governor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. D. BARNHAM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Consul-General Barnham to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 106.)
Sir, *Smyrna, October 7, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency a short account, showing the attitude of the Government and the strikers during the fourth strike on the Aidin Railway, which was settled last night.

On Saturday, the 26th September, the men who had been restless during the week telephoned to the management that they were coming *en masse* to put forward certain demands. This message was never received; the Manager and the Secretary, and one of the London Directors, who had both been sent from England, were absent on the arrival of the men. The latter waited impatiently for some while, and then, considering themselves unceremoniously treated, declared the fourth general strike.

Their chief demands were the unqualified readmission of seventeen men who had been reserved for judgment, and dismissal of all their chiefs, including Mr. Barfield.

Soldiers were obtained eventually to the number of 150 for the patrolling of the line. On Sunday, the 27th, a fruitless discussion ensued, in which Enver Bey took part, but the Company had now become convinced of one thing, and this was that the only possible means of avoiding future strikes and satisfactorily settling the present one was to act firmly, and put the question of discipline before every other consideration.

On Monday, the 28th, the Company took the ground from under the strikers' feet by preparing a notice stating that it accepted the result of their leaving work, that it therefore had no longer any one in its service, and that applications for entry into the Company's service would be favourably considered.

That evening Mr. Heathcote-Smith, with the Company's managing body, saw the Vali, who was almost hysterical in his manner of begging them to take everybody back unconditionally at least for a fortnight, and then to weed out the worst characters when things had quieted down.

It was pointed out to the Vali that the men would only resume work on permanent conditions, and that the course he suggested would result in a breach of faith; further, that as there had been proved cases of intimidation, if the Government were only to act firmly by punishing the violent among the agitators, the strike would cease, inasmuch as terrorism was its one and only source.

From Monday, the 28th, right up till yesterday, the 6th October, the history of the strike is but a tedious repetition of proposals of arbitration put forward by the Company at the urgent instance of Enver Bey, and rejected by the men.

Two incidents occurred during the week. In the first the strikers had seized two trains and run them up country, so as to take back to their homes many who had been left stranded here. The first of these trains was boarded on its return and retaken by the Company, who then ran it to the suburb Boudja and back. A crowd of 150 strikers had collected at one spot on the line, and had threatened to be run over rather than let the train pass. However, the Company disregarded this, and putting on full steam, the train dashed at them at high speed. The strikers stood their ground until the train was but a few yards off, and then nimbly leapt aside with unusual alacrity. The moral effect of this determined act was very salutary.

The second incident took place at 5 A.M. the next morning. The other train taken by the strikers was being brought down to Smyrna when news came that a body of strikers had been walking up the line, evidently with the intention of warning their comrades that the Company had regained possession of the first engine. (All the other engines had been disabled by the strikers, who had removed some of the essential parts.) Therefore, just after midnight, some soldiers were sent out on the one working engine, and they laid in wait for the strikers' train some 10 miles up the line. As news had been wired that the strikers' train had left the next station, Jumovassi, at 4 A.M. (20 minutes' distance), and as at 4·40 A.M. there were still no signs of it, the engine advanced along the single line towards Jumovassi. Just as it neared the station there came into view the strikers' train with its locomotive derailed, but still coupled to the carriages. At the top of a telegraph pole there were two men hacking at the wires, and on the other side of the line the strikers were fleeing away helter-skelter across the fields. Only one arrest was made at the time, but later some thirty were brought down under police escort, and kept some hours in a room at the Smyrna station.

The crowd once made a rush to try and release them, and in the mêlée an Italian subject was killed and two men wounded. The burial of this man the next day (Friday, the 2nd October) was made the occasion for uttering renewed threats of personal violence against the heads of the Company.

Each interview with the Vali but confirmed one's conviction of his unfitness to cope with the responsibilities of his position. The whole town, too, was showing its open defiance of authority by its actions after the sinking of the Hamidie steamer in the bay.

To tire out the strikers appeared the only way of settling the dispute. The Company made wonderful efforts, and by the chief engineers and others lending their aid, they started running goods trains, and on the 6th October there were nine engines being worked, for by this time all the strike up country had terminated, and only Smyrna held out.

The Italian Consul-General, on the 4th and 5th, tried to intercede with some of the ringleaders, who were Italian subjects, but he had no success. Enver Bey had already told the strikers they were so unreasonable he would have nothing more to do with them. On Monday the Grand Vizier's grandson, Fuad Bey, Director of Political Affairs here, returned and opened up fresh negotiations. The Company had made various offers of arbitration, but now stated its final terms, which were: No pay to be given during the strike; four ringleaders to be dismissed, and six others to be suspended for some months. The strikers tried yesterday (the 6th) and failed to bring about a general strike; they were worn out and discouraged; and so Fuad Bey

was able to induce them to accept the conditions imposed. Their pay and hours of work remain unaltered since the last Agreement.

Just half-an-hour before the Agreement was signed a sentry bayonetted and killed a man who tried to push past him into the station; and as it was feared that the effect of this might be very bad the signing took place hurriedly.

To-day everything is running smoothly.

The settlement may be regarded as a very complete victory for the Company, who have insisted throughout, not on questions of money or hours, but on the absolute discipline and obedience of their men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

[36115] No. 29.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 654.)
Sir, *Constantinople, October* 11, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting on the murder of Saoud-ibn-Reshid, the last of the murderers of the Emir of Hail at that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Consul Devey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 50.)
Sir, *Damascus, September* 28, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 48 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to report that the Sebhan clan of Shammer tribe, under the leadership of Hamoud-ibn-Sebhan, organized a strong raid against Saoud-ibn-Rashid and attacked him in Hail. The latter was found to be so weak and totally deserted by his men that he had no power to resist the attack, and the raiders entered the town and killed him, together with his brother Faissal Rashid, and at present Hail and the tribe of Shammer are presided over by Hamoud-ibn-Sebhan, who is the uncle (maternal) of Saoud-ibn-Abdul-Aziz-ibn-Rashid, the young boy now at Medina, and in whose name he is taking the leadership at Hail. The boy is now about 10 years old, and too young to take up the rule of his father, Abdul-Aziz, and his brother Mut'ib. He is under guardianship of his uncle Hamoud-ibn-Sebhan.

The three brothers—Sultan, Saoud, and Faissal—who combined last year and killed their three cousins are now all killed in their turn, and the Emirlik of Hail has reverted to a son of Abdul-Aziz, who will be invited from Medina to come back and inherit the Emirate and treasures of his father.

The Principality of Hail, after Abdul-Aziz-ibn-Rashid, who was killed about September 1906, has been governed till the present date by four Emirs, namely:—

Mut'ib-ibn-Abdul-Aziz from September 1906 to February 1907.
Sultan-ibn-Hamoud Rashid from February 1907 to July 1908.
Saoud-ibn-Hamoud Rashid from July 1908 to September 1908.
Saoud-ibn-Abdul-Aziz-er-Rashid from September 1908.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

[36116] No. 30.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 655.)

Sir, *Constantinople, October 11, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Smyrna, reporting on the result of the trial of the Samos insurgents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Consul-General Barnham to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 104.)

Sir, *Smyrna, October 5, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that in a Report dated the 30th ultimo Mr. Vice-Consul Mare announces the conclusion of the trial of the insurgents at Samos.

The Court of Appeal has sentenced to death the Senators Sofoulis and Hadjidakis; the ex-Deputy of Vathy, Chrisakis; the ex-chief of gendarmerie, Orologas; and fourteen others.

Twenty-one have been sentenced to imprisonment for life, others for shorter terms, 100 have been released on security, and a few have been acquitted.

Mr. Mare speaks of fresh arrests of persons for aiding the insurgents who have recently returned to the island from Greece.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. D. BARNHAM.

[36123] No. 31.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 662.)

Sir, *Therapia, October 13, 1908.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 636 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad with regard to the Young Turk Committee at Bagdad.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Major Ramsay to Government of India.

(No. 93.)

Sir, *Bagdad, September 14, 1908.*

IN continuation of my letter dated the 7th September, I have the honour to report that the Vali came to call on me on the 9th September, and he then said that the Young Turk Committee was getting more reasonable, and that the state of affairs in Bagdad was more satisfactory than it had been for some weeks. He said that the Young Turks had objected to the Nakib sitting on the Administrative Council on the ground that he was not legally entitled to do so, and that the local difficulty had been temporarily avoided by both parties agreeing to the question of the Nakib's right being referred for decision to Constantinople. Subsequently I heard from another, but equally reliable, source that the Young Turk Committee had ejected some of the more violent members, and consequently they were becoming more amenable to reason.

2. A new Committee has been formed which is said to be supported by the Nakib, and which represents the opinions of a number of the Notables of Bagdad, who are men of considerable local influence. There are also some military officers on this Committee. The Committee gives out that its aims are to support the Constitution, and not to render more difficult the task of the Governors of the country.

3. Finally an order has come by telegram from the Grand Vizier to the Vali, saying that there is a Committee of Union and Progress at Constantinople which is doing all it can to assist the new Cabinet, but that it does not recognize the various Committees which are said to have formed themselves at provincial towns, and which claim to be members of the Central Committee. The Grand Vizier directs the Vali to listen to any reasonable complaint or suggestion made by the people, but tells him that the local Committee of Young Turks is not to be recognized or to be allowed to interfere with the Government, and that if it persists in attempting to do so it is to be dispersed, if necessary, with the aid of the Military Department, which is receiving orders to this effect from the Minister for War. The telegram has only just been received, so it is not yet possible to say how it will be taken by the local Committee.

The telegram also directs the Vali to see that the revenue is collected, so that local expenses can be met from local income without making demands on the Constantinople Treasury.

4. I am informed that the Vali is sending deputies to see the Sheikhs of the surrounding Arab tribes to explain to them that the Government is in future to be actuated by motives of justice and humanity only, and inviting them to come to Bagdad to discuss the new conditions.

5. The post from Mosul has not yet arrived. The Russian Consul has, however, just come from Mosul, and I understand from him that there had been no fresh developments immediately before his departure.

6. On the 13th September, the Sultan's birthday, the Nakib went to the Serai to pay his respects to the Vali.

7. A Reform Committee has been formed in Kabala, but the Mutessarif has declined to recognize it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. RAMSAY.

[36742] No. 32.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 22.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Viscount Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 20th instant, relative to oxide Mining Concessions on islands in the Persian Gulf.

India Office, October 20, 1908.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Viscount Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, October 20, 1908.*

INQUIRY has been received from Strick and Co., who wish to obtain Mining Concessions for oxide on Nabiyu Farur, Sirri, and Little Tamb, and on other islands not expressly specified, as to the procedure they should follow to this end.

As regards the last, it is proposed to give support to their application, and to say that negotiations should be conducted through medium of the Resident in Persian Gulf with the Sheikh of Shargah.

They will be informed as regards Sirri of the instructions issued by Foreign Office to Legation at Tehran in telegram of the 19th ultimo.

As regards Nabiyu Farur, what are the views of your Government? Presumably Nabiyu Farur and most of the other islands in the neighbourhood are Persian. Strick says they are under the Governor of Lingah.

[34106] No. 33.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 439.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 22, 1908.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a letter from the India Office* inclosing correspondence on the subject of a dispute which has arisen between the Sheikh of Koweit and the Turkish authorities in regard to his property at Fao. Previous correspondence on the subject has been forwarded to His Majesty's Embassy in the confidential print.

A somewhat analogous case to the present arose in 1902 in connection with a lawsuit respecting this property. On the occasion in question the Sheikh appealed for British protection, and representations were made at Constantinople which resulted in the issue by the Ottoman Government of instructions to the Vali of Bussorah to propose arbitration, which, on the intervention of the British Resident, the Sheikh accepted. Thereupon the Vali was notified that the arbitration would be conducted under the supervision of His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, who would be consulted at all stages of the proceedings, and attend the sittings of the Court. Mr. Crow was able to report in September 1903 that an amicable compromise had been effected, in virtue of which Sheikh Mubarek was recognized as the sole owner of the property at Fao.

I have to request that your Excellency will propose a similar procedure to the Ottoman Government in the present instance, unless you should see any objection.

Your Excellency should, however, use your discretion in the selection of a suitable moment for making this suggestion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[36837] No. 34.

Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company to Foreign Office.—(Received October 23, 1908.)

3, *Sutter's Hall Court, Cannon Street, London, October* 21, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to reply to your letter of the 19th ultimo, relative to the claim of this Company against the Ottoman Government on account of the recent attack on the passenger steamer "Blosse Lynch."

My directors note with pleasure that His Majesty's Ambassador believes that it may be possible in the future to trust to the probity and good-will of the Ottoman authorities. Under these circumstances they would have been ready to accept the recommendation of his Excellency that they should limit their claim to actual losses incurred, which have, however, been increased rather than diminished since these incidents, owing to the unsettled state of the country. As, however, Sir Edward Grey is of the opinion that it might under the circumstances be advisable not to press the claim at all, I am instructed by my directors to state that they are ready to accept this advice, and that they will accordingly waive their claim in its entirety, in the hope that such action on their part may be accepted by the new authorities as evidence of their good feeling.

They would be very glad if His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople will on their behalf notify the Porte in this sense, and will suggest that the Valis of Bagdad and Bussorah should be warned of the serious consequences which might follow a further incident such as the attack on our vessel.

With reference to the suggestion made by His Majesty's Ambassador in Constantinople, that the rights of this Company are not unlikely under the circumstances of the new régime to be viewed as an infringement of the sovereign rights of the Ottoman Empire, my directors believe that such an attitude is not in accord with the declarations of the Turkish Government, or with the views of the best elements of the Young Turkey party. On more than one occasion they have made it clear that they intend scrupulously to respect the Concessions acquired by foreigners in the past,

* No. 1.

and we see no reason to doubt the sincerity of such declarations. The leaders of the new régime have appealed to the sympathy of the Powers, and especially of Great Britain. That appeal has certainly in the case of Great Britain met with a ready response, and it hardly seems likely that they will wish to alienate the sympathies of Great Britain or other Powers by contesting rights long recognized by their predecessors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. MACLEAN,
Secretary.

[36965] No. 35.

M. Hagopian to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 24.)

Sir, 25, *Chesilton Road, Fulham, London, October* 23, 1908.

I HAD written the inclosed Memorial, dated the 7th instant, and was on the point of forwarding it to you at the Foreign Office, when, upon reading in the "Times" the report of your admirable and historic speech to your constituents at Wooler, I hesitated and held it back, all the more so as you had not forgotten the cause of Armenia and Macedonia.

I and all my Armenian compatriots were delighted to read that "hatred, strife, and oppression had been swept away and replaced by fair play, peace, and good-will—good-will, which is the surest guarantee of peace, more sure than any Treaty or anything else."

This is a roseate description, and I hope that, whether meant to describe the present situation or a future consummation that is hoped for, it has sunk deep into the hearts of Turk and Armenian alike, and I do not wonder that you have been thanked for your noble speech by editors of newspapers and others, and I and my friends heartily associate ourselves with them. Nevertheless the granting of a Constitution and the convocation of a Parliament do not *ipso facto* bring about and maintain these happy changes. These ideas have to be translated and developed into deeds both at Constantinople and in Armenia, as in many places the old spirit of oppression is still rampant, and there is yet a strong reactionary and absolutist party bent upon mischief, and people who have been accustomed to the evil ways of the former régime will not easily give up their habits and become all at once justice-loving and law-abiding citizens.

Already it is reported that at Constantinople the Armenians are agitating for the maintenance of the 61st Article of the Treaty of Berlin and against its abrogation, as desired by a section of the Young Turkey party. Accordingly I would earnestly request that, in giving full consideration to, and adequately safeguarding, the interests and status of Turkey in any revision of the Treaty of Berlin, His Majesty's Government will not countenance any proposals to annul the 61st Article, but, in virtue thereof and of the Cyprus Convention, continue to exercise a friendly and watchful supervision over the Ottoman Administration in Armenia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. HAGOPIAN.

Inclosure in No. 35.

M. Hagopian to Sir Edward Grey.

Sir, 25, *Chesilton Road, Fulham, London, October* 7, 1908.

IN consequence of Prince Ferdinand unexpectedly proclaiming the independence of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, with himself as King, without obtaining the previous assent of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, and the annexation by the Emperor of Austria-Hungary of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a new state of things has been brought about which is deeply engaging the attention of Great Britain, of France, and of Russia, and we learn that a Congress is about to be assembled to reconsider the Articles of the Treaty of Berlin.

We all of us regret exceedingly that these steps should have been taken at a time when the Young Turkey party, making common cause with all the oppressed

subjects of the Sultan, destroyed the Hamidian régime, and replaced it with a Constitution having for its device "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity."

The Government of Turkey which has come into power under the new régime, seeing clearly the supreme importance of the Treaty of Berlin for the rights and very existence of Turkey, is taking measures to secure its observance. And it is satisfactory to find that England and France have decided to maintain that Treaty intact in the interests of European public law and order and that they are not alone in this decision.

I have not the least desire to add to the preoccupations of the Foreign Office, which I could imagine and fully appreciate, but I wish to emphasize a point which I hope will not escape the attention of His Majesty's Government. That point is that the only moral and legal protection which the Armenians have in Europe or in international law is under the 61st Article of the Treaty of Berlin; that in trying to obtain the adequate fulfilment of that Article, which, as we know, was drafted by the Marquess of Salisbury at the Berlin Congress, my countrymen have made vast sacrifices of blood and treasure, and have undergone indescribable suffering, for although these sacrifices were made passively in a just cause, they are none the less as real and as precious as if they were made actively. I need hardly add that those who perished were mostly the bread-winners and the better educated and intelligent members of the nation, forming its very backbone.

Under the old régime the Palace camarilla and the Sublime Porte have baffled the honest purpose of successive British Administrations and the devoted efforts in the cause of reform and justice of the most distinguished of British Ambassadors. Though now a constitutional Sovereign and no longer an absolute Ruler, it is practically the same Sultan who signed the Treaty of Berlin who is appealing to the other Signatory Powers of that Treaty for advice and assistance in the present emergency.

It is hardly necessary for me to emphasize the fact that systematic opposition to the wishes of the Powers, the perpetration of a series of outrages and massacres by which 100,000 Armenians have lost their lives, and the cynical indifference to the fate of the survivors were not in any sense fulfilling the 61st Article of the Treaty of Berlin on the part of the Sultan in the past. Accordingly I would respectfully urge that, should the Treaty of Berlin come under the revision of the Powers, you will, in justice to the past sacrifices of our people, not only see to the maintenance of that Article in a friendly spirit, but insist upon its being made more binding and stringent for the future, with the light gained by the experience of the past thirty years. In agreeing to this the Young Turkey party will be only carrying out their own programme, and the benefits accruing to the Armenians will also extend to their immediate neighbours in Armenia belonging to other races under the reign of the new era which has so promisingly dawned upon the Ottoman Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. HAGOPIAN.

[36974] No. 36.

Rev. R. Harris to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October 24.*)

Woodbrooke, Selly Oak, nr. Birmingham, October 23, 1908.

Dear Sir Edward Grey,

I AM taking the liberty to send you a private report which has reached me from the immediate neighbourhood of the recent massacres in Asia Minor, at Weran Shehr.

As you know, my informations, coming from American mission centres, are usually of great value, and, in this particular district, although I know of the movement of your nearest Consul, I do not know whether you have had complete information of what is taking place. Accordingly I transcribe for you portions of a letter which I received yesterday, and, if it should turn out that it confirms what you have already received, no harm is done; I am only anxious that you should realize, as no doubt you do, the dangers that still impend over the Christian populations of the East.

The letter is from Dr. Andrus, of Mardin, but his name must on no account be allowed to become public, as it would involve serious dangers.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) RENDEL HARRIS.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Abstract of letter from Dr. Andrus, Mardin, dated October 4, 1908.

THE new reform movement in these parts is meeting with armed resistance by Ibrahim Pasha and Hadji Hossein Konjo at Weran Shehr and the Castle of Hadji Hossein Konjo. The expedition by the Government against them has been badly managed, so that Ibrahim Pasha was allowed to escape, but died on the road to the Sinjar Mountains. Hadji Hossein Konjo was forced to surrender himself and his castles, which contained 800 rifles and stacks of ammunition. He has been taken to Diarbekir for trial. But the Kurdish and Arab tribes opposed to these men gathered like locusts, and they, with the Redif, who got out of hand after Ibrahim Pasha's escape and Hossein Konjo's surrender, fell to killing, plundering, and burning the villages of the Mille (Ibrahim Pasha's tribe) and the Shirkian (Hossein Konjo's tribe). The Redif also plundered the non-combatants of Weran Shehr. The Kaimakam (Governor of Weran Shehr) was partner with the troops in plundering the town. Yesterday I received a petition from the Evangelicals in Weran Shehr pleading for relief, as the Government neither distributes food to the famishing ones in the town, whom the Redif have stripped of everything, nor allows the inhabitants to remove their families to Mardin (most of the 5,000 of the place are from Mardin). The urgency is great, and we have nothing wherewith to meet it; three days ago I telegraphed to Constantinople, and also for the London "Times," the following telegram:—

"Ibrahim Pasha died at Sulleh; his wife and sons will surrender. Hossein Konjo has been sent under guard to Diarbekir. Weran Shehr, with 100 villages, has been plundered with the tribes. Twenty-five thousand people are in want. We appeal to you for help."

It is now Sabbath evening, and as yet no reply to my telegram has come.

Mr. Heard, the English Consul located at Diarbekir, arrived here unexpectedly last Wednesday afternoon, and left us yesterday to return to Diarbekir. It was of the Lord that he came, for he was able to stir up the local government to do something to secure the removal of the Redif from Weran Shehr and the establishment of a court-martial to try the officers of the Redif for allowing their troops to plunder the town of Weran Shehr and to kill men of the tribes of the Mille and Shirkian and take their women captives after they had surrendered. The whole plain from Urfa to Jezirah and to the Euphrates is terribly disturbed, and the Government has not troops enough to cope with the rising of the tribes, who have begun reprisals on one another, and are plundering right and left. Many merchants in Mardin are losing heavily, and anarchy is rife all about us. Travelling is very unsafe. Midyat, too, is now practically shut in because the mountain tribes have risen. They are in two parties against each other, and fighting has begun at Kefr Jose. The party at Diarbekir and Mardin opposed to the new régime are at the bottom of these disturbances, and they seek to discredit it in the eyes of the people of this vilayet. The enemies of Ibrahim Pasha at Diarbekir and his friends at Mardin are now united against the Society of Union and Progress! The most responsible persons for the great commotion and plundering and fighting among the Kurd and Arab tribes at present are Aarif Pasha at Diarbekir and Abdul Kadr Pasha at Mardin, but it would not do to couple my name with such information, as it might make trouble for me. But such are the facts. Aarif Pasha went from Diarbekir to Derik on purpose to organize raiding expeditions against the Mille and Shirkian tribes.

To-day two preachers of the principles of the Society of Union and Progress, with head-quarters at Salonica, arrived, and this afternoon, before an assembly of over 2,000 people gathered on the roof of the Central Market in the city, one of them delivered a discourse in Turkish, which was translated by our Turkish teacher into Arabic. His address gave a description of the old régime, an account of the rise of the Society, and of the way it was the means of introducing, without strife, the new régime founded on a new Constitution. He defined liberty, equality, fraternity, justice, and showed the relation and function of the Society to the acting Government. It was, on the whole, a well-balanced speech, and was well received.

[37116] No. 37.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 676.)

Sir, *Constantinople, October 16, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting on an outbreak of discontent amongst the employés of the Régie at Samsun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Consul Jones to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 81.)

Sir, *Trebizond, October 10, 1908.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 73 of the 21st ultimo, relative to the strike of the tobacco pickers at Samsun, I have the honour to report that, according to information received this day from the Consular Agent at that port, a serious outbreak occurred on the 5th instant, when a demonstration was made in front of the office of the Tobacco Régie by the workpeople, who, it is said, had been promised by the Director ("Nazir") of the Régie there, M. Wroblewski, that their demand for an increase of 25 per cent. to their wages should be referred to the head office at Constantinople and support given to their claim.

The Assistant Director, M. Spandoni, a Russian subject, went to expostulate with the people, but was roughly handled by six of the demonstrators, who were subsequently imprisoned by the Governor ("Mutessarif") at the instance of the Russian Vice-Consul.

In reply to an application made to the Mutessarif by the workpeople, that official informed them that he would telegraph to Constantinople in order to obtain the views of the head office of the Régie with regard to this question, and on the 6th instant a reply was received to the effect that the news that the pickers were on strike had come as a surprise to that office, where reports had been received from the Samsun branch ("nazaret") depicting the local situation as being wholly satisfactory and the workpeople as thoroughly contented with their wages. When the substance of this telegram was made known to the tobacco pickers they all at once rushed to the office of the Régie, where they clamoured for the increase of their wages and the release of the six assailants of the Assistant Director.

The Consular Agent goes on to say that the Nazir then ordered a cavass to admit six to eight individual demonstrators with a view to their conferring with him, but as soon as this order had been carried out the doors were immediately shut and the men were severely beaten. The people outside, who numbered about 600, hearing the cries of their fellow-workmen, began to throw stones and to break down the fences, whereupon the Nazir ordered his cavasses to fire on the crowd, with the result that seven men were wounded, two of them, it is feared, fatally. The rioters then stormed the building and began to plunder the tobacco and all they could lay their hands on.

During the confusion the Nazir escaped to his own house, whither the workpeople then rushed with the intention of putting him to death, a design which they were prevented from carrying out by the hands of soldiers who had been sent to protect the house against an anticipated attack on the part of the rioters.

In a subsequent communication the Consular Agent adds that a feeling of apprehension exists among the townspeople, some of whom had closed their shops. He also states that his French colleague, who appears to have interested himself keenly in the matter, is endeavouring to prove that the Nazir (who is possibly a French subject, though on this point I have no certain knowledge) was absent from the Régie office at the time of the disturbance, and consequently cannot be held in any way responsible for the results, while others assert that he was beyond doubt in his office on that occasion.

The building itself, the Consular Agent adds, is now closed for repairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. FRANCIS JONES.

[37689] No. 38.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 705.)

Sir, *Therapia, October 24, 1908.*

YOU cannot, I think, have failed to notice, from the reports I have had the honour to forward to you since my arrival here on the subject of the internal state of Turkey, the very striking similarity, on the whole, of the succession of feelings and the consequent events attendant on the proclamation of the Constitution throughout the entire Empire.

The last instance which I reported was the series of meetings to protest against the action of Austria and Bulgaria in the Balkan Peninsula and the boycott of Austrian goods.

At the present time it is a tendency towards reaction which is making its appearance with similar precision in many parts of the country.

I had the honour to report to you yesterday in my despatch No. 690 on the situation in Constantinople.

From Tripoli, in Barbary, I hear that the Arabs are occupied not so much with the formation of political parties, which, Mr. Alvarez writes, are "complete novelties" in Tripoli, where the idea even of Ottoman nationality requires development, as with the question as to how far the Constitution is in accordance with the principles of the Holy Law. They are mainly of the Maleki sect, which is more strict and more exclusive than the Hanafi (to which great sect most Turks belong), and thus the judicial and political equality with themselves of Christians is especially distasteful. A member of the Salonica branch of the League has arrived, and is apparently doing good work in furthering the progress of reform.

The members sent by the same branch to Beirout complain of the indifference, if not the apathy, of the population of Syria towards the Constitution. This is the case especially at Aleppo, where the landholders are very averse to it, depriving them as it does of their arbitrary power over their peasants. The same feeling appears to exist in the Damascus district, where at a village called Beitima, some 20 miles south of the town, it developed into a riot, in the course of which a peasant was killed, and further disorder was only averted by the arrival of a detachment of fifty soldiers. In other villages a similar feeling has been perceptible, though it has so far led to no breach of the peace.

Mr. Cumberbatch reports that recently a Moslem youth and a Christian woman had a quarrel in Beirout, in the course of which they began to abuse each other's religion. A mob of some 500 Moslems quickly gathered and made an anti-Christian demonstration, but further trouble was suppressed by the prompt action of the Vali. Mr. Cumberbatch draws attention to the incident, unimportant in itself, as showing how quickly and easily the fanatical spirit is roused. He observes that only one month has elapsed since the representatives of the two religions were embracing and fraternizing on the same spot.

I have received a despatch, dated the 13th instant, from the Acting British Consul at Scutari, in Albania, in which he reports that a party, consisting mainly of Catholics, but containing some Mahommedans, formed a club with the idea of starting a newspaper and a propaganda for the establishment of Albanian schools. The Mussulman element were displeased at this step, and proceeded to break the lanterns in the Catholic quarter, and then held a meeting to demand the dissolution of the club and even the suppression of the local Committee of the League. However, Christians and Mussulmans alike were summoned to a meeting on the 10th instant, at which the news concerning Bulgaria and Bosnia and Herzegovina was published. The news produced a great impression on the Moslems, who at once began to fraternize anew with their Christian fellow-countrymen, and reaction has thus happily been checked for the time. At the same time the population has been warned to hold itself in readiness to answer the first summons.

The elections in the Sanjak of Drama have taken place and passed off quietly. Two Turkish members were returned.

I next have the honour to inclose copies of two despatches I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van. You will perceive that Captain Dickson, while by no means prejudiced in favour of the Armenians, is fully alive also to the shortcomings of the Turks. The attitude of the Armenians since the establishment of the Constitution has been arrogant and provocative, while the Turks are sullen, subdued,

and suspicious. The Armenians are taking advantage of the cessation of the former drastic and violent system of collecting taxes to refuse to pay them. Their general attitude seems calculated to call forth reaction, but it cannot be denied that the present state of affairs is a great improvement, if only temporary and surrounded by dangers, on that which prevailed three months ago.

I understand that lawlessness and disorder has reached a remarkable pitch in the Caucasus, and the new era of liberty in Turkey is likely to have still further disturbing influence in that country.

There appears to be considerable disorder still in the Vilayet of Diarbekir. His Majesty's Vice-Consul has several times telegraphed that he apprehends massacres or attacks on Christians at various villages north of the provincial capital, and the Armenian Catholic Patriarch has communicated to me a telegram from Viranshehir (where Ibrahim Pasha was finally run to ground) complaining of the excesses of the tribes and the troops. It appears inevitable, however, that in so wild a country the pursuit and destruction of a great bandit Chief like Ibrahim should be attended with cruelty and violence, but there is room to hope that the resulting effect will be for good.

I have brought the telegrams I have received from Mr. Heard to the notice of the competent authorities, and one of his principal recommendations, that the Beys of the threatened district should be brought into Diarbekir for an inquiry, has been put into execution, and I am not without hope that the situation in this region is not altogether so bad as Mr. Heard depicts it.

The Minister of the Interior states that a Sheikh Ahmed, of Zeilan, has been delegated to explain the benefits of the Constitution to the Kurds, and the rumours of an attack upon the Christians may have arisen from this. He believes the fears of the Christians are groundless.

His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Konia has telegraphed to me to-day that he has received private news from Adana to the effect that the Moslems are threatening to massacre the Christians at Bairam. He thinks an outbreak possible, but unlikely. Similar threats have also been made at Konia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Captain Dickson to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 29.)

Sir, *Van, September* 30, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to submit a quarterly Report on the affairs of this vilayet.

The Armenian Question.

It would be difficult to find a parallel for a reversal of situation, régime, and policy so complete as that which has come to pass in this province during the last three months. In July the Armenian quarters in Van were blockaded and crowded with troops; "perquisitions" of the severest kind were being conducted in the houses, the prisons were full of Armenian "fedai," and others were being hunted down. The Redifs of the district were all mobilized, and five extra battalions had been brought from Erzeroum to their assistance. A massacre of Armenians had taken place, and the men who had planned and executed this had been allowed to go scot free, some of them being even decorated and promoted. Then came the bloodless revolt of the IInd Army Corps in Macedonia, the granting of the Constitution, and the order to release all political prisoners.

It was some time, of course, before people here could understand the meaning of such a change, but as they came to realize it the effect upon them has been extraordinary. From being a down-trodden, cringing outcast who dared not show his face outside the Armenian quarter, the Armenian has become a noisy, blatant, overbearing, and insolent imitation of the worst type of politician.

The small Turkish colony in Van (composed mostly of Government employés, zaptiehs, small land-owners, and tithe farmers) were formerly posing as armed Bashi-Bozouks, clamouring and intriguing for the extermination of the Armenians. They

are now subdued, sullen, and by no means content at the turn of affairs, which deprives many of them of their usual means of living. They feel generally that they have been duped.

At present they are sulking, and take little interest in the Parliamentary election, have no special aims, and though they have nominated Moslem "delegates" for the "Electoral College," which is to select the Deputies for the Parliament, they have undertaken no election campaign.

The two parties of Armenians, on the other hand (the "Tashnak" and the "Armenist"), have utilized their revolutionary organization for electioneering purposes. The "Tashnak," with whom the "Huntchak" are now allied, form a powerful party, led by the "fedai" Chiefs Aram, "the Doctor," Serkis, and Ishkhan. They are presenting "the Doctor" (whose real name, by the way, is Varhad Papazian) as their candidate for "Deputy."

In their first campaign, which has for its object the election of "Tashnak" as opposed to "Armenist" or Mussulman delegates to the "Electoral College," they have been completely successful, securing the election of all their candidates. This result is due partly to the threats, &c., which they have not scrupled to use.

The Armenists (whose candidate as Deputy is one Terzabashian, an intelligent and respectable merchant, whom I have mentioned in previous despatches) have not had the least chance against their rivals, though they comprise the more respectable and quiet portion of the Armenian population, and are supported by the Mussulmans and the Government. The Tashnaks have also (see p. 4) intrigued with various Aghas to secure the Kurdish vote, and have reduced the Murakhas (or Armenian Bishop) to the position of a mere tool. The friction caused by this last culminated in an actual fight in the Armenian Council between this Prelate and Terzabashian, and the resulting scandal has been ingeniously used by the Tashnakists to damage the Armenist cause, while they are now endeavouring to secure the exile or imprisonment of Terzabashian, who is their ablest opponent.

In fact the "fedai" Chiefs, who two months ago were either in prison or fugitives, are now self-elected masters of the situation, and even attempt to dictate his action to the Acting Vali.

With magnificent impudence they claim the grant of the Constitution as due entirely to their own efforts, and are believed, not only by most Armenians, but by many Kurds. Several Kurdish Aghas, who have been summoned to Van by the Acting Vali to answer for their misdeeds, have actually asked Aram on what terms he will secure their pardon.

General Situation.

Around Van considerable advantage has been taken of the liberty and sense of security brought by the new régime. Many Armenians have left for other countries, and several have returned hither from exile in Russia. In the north of the vilayet I have not heard lately of much pillaging committed by the Kurds, though in the south (viz., in Hakkiari, Shattakh, and about the Persian border) things have not altered in this respect.

For the moment the Firek is the Acting Vali, and, so far, as shown himself to be capable, honest, and liberal. He is an Albanian of good family, who was sent here as an exile twenty-eight years ago for the part he took in an insurrection in Albania at the time of the downfall of Midhat Pasha. His memory is evidently cherished by his compatriots, as he has been nominated by them, without his own consent, as candidate for the Deputyship of Sentari.

The local "Committee of Union and Progress" is quiet, reasonable, and satisfactory, and works well in conjunction with the Firek. The "fedai" have once or twice tried to dictate to them, but have been invariably snubbed, though, as they are Armenians, it does not affect them. The Defterdar, Mektubji, and the other employés are harmless sheep, do what they are told, and give expression to no ideas of their own.

Some of the smaller employés have been dismissed for various reasons, amongst others the Mudir of Shattakh (whom I have had reason to complain to the Vali on various occasions. (See my No. 21 of the 18th August, No. 9 of the 6th April, and No. 14 of the 20th April, 1908.)

The Armenians, and Kop Mehmed Sadig Bey, of the Haideranli tribe, are using every effort to procure the dismissal of Jevdet Bey, Kaimakam of Serai, the subject of my No. 27 of the 22nd September, 1908.

The Kaïmakam of Vostan has been transferred to Gavar at the request of the Kurds and Turks of Vostan. The Armenians and the "fedai" have tried hard to have him brought back, but without success.

The financial situation of the vilayet was extremely bad when the late Vali left at the end of August, but the Porte promised the Ferik (before he would accept the office as Vali) to pay 15,000*l.* to the Van Treasury, and has up to the present actually paid 8,000*l.* of this sum.

There is no bank in Van, therefore the sum has been paid by the bank at Erzeroum to the Defterdar of that province, with orders to him to forward it to this place.

Lately additional sums of 2,300*l.* and 1,200*l.* were sent in this way, to pay off troops at Van and Bitlis respectively.

Tahir Pasha, Vali of Erzeroum, has appropriated, with the connivance of the Defterdar, 600*l.* of this to his own private use, in spite of the objection of the Ferik, who has now complained to the Porte on the matter.

The harvest this year has been comparatively good in most districts; nevertheless the Government has not been able to collect its tithes under the new régime, as the tax-collectors have been warned that they must not allow any "irregularities or abuses," with the consequence that the Armenians will not pay anything, saying that they have no money.

Unless the old-fashioned method of beating is brought into use once more the Government will go bankrupt, in spite of the Constitution.

The Kurdish Question.

One of the great alterations that must follow from the new régime in this vilayet is the change that it must make in the status of the Kurds.

That some change is impending is evident, though it is hard to foretell what its character will be.

At present the Kurds themselves, or at least those of them who are in touch with the Government, realize that the era of free license, which they have been enjoying under the protection of the Sultan and the Mushir, is at an end, and, for the time being, most of them seem to be "lying low" to see what happens.

The Haideranli Chiefs (Hussein Pasha, Emin Pasha, Timur Pasha, and Kop Mehmed Bey) were ordered by the Ferik, acting as Vali, to come to Van to settle the question of their surrender of the Armenian lands and villages appropriated by them during and since the massacre.

Finding that the Government was in earnest they came, and have agreed to surrender all lands to which they have no official title-deeds, while in doubtful cases, if the former owners are forthcoming, the Courts are to decide the question.

Some difficulty has been caused, and a very bad impression given, by the action of Abdullah Pasha, Commander of the IVth Army Corps at Erzingan.

He telegraphed to the Ferik that these Chiefs were not to be punished and that they were to retain their plunder. The Ferik ignored the telegram, explaining it as the act of an adherent of the ancient régime, ignorant of the country and of the Turkish character.

The Tashnak have been intriguing with these Haideranli Chiefs, promising to procure their pardon, on condition of their voting for the election of "the Doctor" as Deputy, and their punishment otherwise. This is mere bluff on the part of the Tashnak, but the Kurds, though impressed at first, have now decided, Hussein Pasha tells me, to vote for no Armenian, and to put up probably a Kurdish candidate for their own district.

The Haideranli profess that they are content with the new régime, and say that they will gladly settle to sheep farming, though of old they were obliged, in response to Governmental hints, to rob and oppress their neighbours. We must own that more honest people than the average Kurd might take to sheep stealing, when the policeman points out where they are, and hints that he would like to take half.

I repeatedly pressed the late Vali (see my No. 21 of the 18th August, 1908) to call the Chiefs of the Hartoshi Kurds (Shekhir Agha, Kurt Beg, Jengir, Jaffar and Cader Aghas) to account for their misdeeds. The Ferik, after the departure of the Vali, summoned these men to Van, and on their non-appearance sent troops to fetch them.

Shekhir Agha fled to Tiari (?), and most of his gang scattered to Mosul, Jezire,

and Sort, where the Kurds do not, I hear, recognize the new régime, and where the Government has not the power to coërce them.

Jaffar and Cader Aghas, however, have "come in," and the Ferik intends to pardon them, on condition of their assisting him in bringing their fellows to justice.

The Shekak Aghas have been summoned to Van to receive counsel as to their behaviour under the new régime. Such as I have seen are very subdued and meek, and bear out my opinion that Kurds are really easy people to handle, and will not misbehave if they feel that the Government really disapproves.

It is only corrupt official connivance that encourages them to rob and pillage.

The Tiari Question.

There have been various unconfirmed rumours of further fighting between the Tiari and Berwari, but nothing concrete. So far as I know, no steps have been taken to carry out the assurances given to your Excellency by the Grand Vizier. The Ferik assures me that the Nestorians were entirely to blame for everything, so that it seems to me that there is little chance of the Nestorians getting any redress or protection. There are rumours that Sutu of Gramar has also been raiding them in the south.

The Frontier Question.

With the new régime, the "Persian frontier policy" seems to have been changed. Your Excellency, however, is probably better informed than I am on this point, as officials here only execute the orders they receive from Constantinople.

It seemed at one time that Tahir Pasha and his fellow commissioners were carrying on an independent campaign of intrigue and aggression, but Tahir Pasha informed me of late that he had done "many things" against his own judgment, and in obedience to orders from Constantinople, though all the blame and responsibility fell on him.

The Commission has been dissolved, and its members passed through Van recently, Tahir Pasha being on the way to Erzeroum to take over his new post as Vali.

With the withdrawal of the Commission, the campaign of military aggression seems to have terminated. I am informed that only small detachments of troops now remain in Tergawar, Metgawar, and Somai. In their stead various Turkish and Armenian revolutionary agents have, I hear, gone to Persia to further the *rapprochement* between the Turks and the Persian revolutionaries in Azerbaijan, and to foster the demand of the malcontents in that district for annexation to Turkey.

It appears that the policy of aggression has been exchanged for one of intrigue. Various revolutionary agents (Young Turk, Armenian, Russian, and Persian) have recently come to Van.

Movements of Troops.

The five battalions of the 8th Division, IVth Army Corps, sent two years ago from this district to Nezney, have returned here *en route* for their respective stations. These are—

	Regiment.	Station.
1st battalion	29th	Van.
1st	31st	Mush.
4th	31st	Sert.
2nd	32nd	Bitlis.
1st	30th	"

The treatment of these troops has been scandalous. They have been attached to the VIth (Bagdad) Army Corps, and should have received pay, &c., from Mosul. Their Commandant (Liva Izzet Pasha, of Ushnu) sent them off without a penny, either for pay or travelling expenses, hence their "march" has been the journey of a horde of armed wanderers. They have had to live by pillage, and have not prospered.

At starting the health of both officers and men was deplorable from fever and dysentery, and when they arrived their condition was terrible. Scarcely 200, or 300 at the most, returned of battalions 500 and 600 strong, and these were ragged, emaciated, and feeble; those that were not sick being exhausted by grave-digging. Their route from Ushnu (viâ Gavar and Dashkala) is strewn with dead and dying soldiers and transport animals, and the men reached Van in twos and threes, mostly on animals which they commandeered from villages, and drove till they dropped. "Hundreds of complaints are coming in hourly," says the Ferik, from villagers who have been robbed of their cattle on this line of march.

The Ferik intends to pay off the time-expired men of these battalions when the money arrives from the Mosul Vilayet.

The 1st battalion 25th Regiment (brought to Van during the "fedai" troubles), left on the 28th September for Erzeroum. Three of the Redif battalions, brought at the same time, left with Kelal Pasha on the 9th September, and a fourth Redif battalion (from Baiburt), sent from Van to Somai and Chairai, has also left those places for Erzeroum. On arrival, these four battalions are to be disbanded.

The mountain battery dispatched to Mergawar from Erzeroum has arrived at Van from the former place, and will remain here for the present.

As a result of these movements the military distribution is now normal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) BERTRAM DICKSON, *Captain, R.F.A.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Captain Dickson to Sir G. Lonther.

(No. 30.)

Sir, *Van, September* 30, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency's attention a few points with regard to the effect of the new régime on the Armenian question.

I believe I am correct in saying that at no time in their histories have the Turks and Armenians lived in sympathy together. Their natures are so different that it seems to me impossible that they can ever assimilate. The Armenian, being the subject race, has always been oppressed, and recently rather too severely, but I am convinced that in the long run a state of mild subjection is better for them, though it would be more advisable that their masters should be more enlightened than the Turks.

The Armenian in subjection, such as I have seen him, is an unsympathetic, mean, cringing, unscrupulous, lying, thieving cur; given his freedom, he loses none of these bad qualities, but in addition becomes insolent, domineering, despotic. He is endowed with a sort of sneak-thief sharpness, which among the ignorant people in these parts passes for intelligence; so that, given that the new régime, with its liberty, equality, and fraternity, are strictly carried out, by means of this sharpness and unscrupulousness, he will be bound to come out above the duller and slower Moslems.

The Moslems in this vilayet are very uncivilized and retrograde, and entirely uneducated. They have a contempt for the Armenian, bred of centuries of dominion over them, and whatever they may be told about equality, &c., this contempt will be difficult to eradicate. I do not believe that the Moslems will easily submit (at least in this generation) to being led and dictated to by the Armenians, more especially as the Armenian policy is, has been, and probably always will be, an entirely selfish one, with no thoughts of a united Ottoman Empire, but only their own nationality, if not of their own profit.

The Tashnak "fedai" organization, which as a revolutionary body exerted such an influence over the Armenians of this vilayet, has, as a political organization, increased its power. At the present moment it is practically blindly followed by the whole Armenian population of the vilayet. Every Armenian delegate elected is Tashnak delegate. The chiefs of this body—Aram, "the Doctor," Serkis, and Ishkhan—are Russian Armenians whose ideas are those of the advanced socialism, amounting to anarchy, current among certain classes in the Caucasus, and who use terrorism as the means of attaining this end. These men, with their uppishness and insolence, and their habit of dictating to all and sundry, are not likely by their leadership to make the Armenians more popular among the Moslems under the new régime.

A proof of this has just occurred at Serai. A band of Armenian "fedai" from Russia came over the frontier, fully armed and in broad daylight, and swaggered

through the Kurd country into the town of Serai and so on to Van. This greatly incensed the Turks at Serai, and on the occasion of some quarrel in the market, when some Armenian had been insolent to a Turk, they took the opportunity of reading them a lesson by sacking the Armenian shops and beating their owners. The Armenian men of Serai on this left their families and came to Van *en bloc* to complain, not to the Government, but to the "fedai."

The insolent way in which these Tashnak leaders have been trying to dictate to the Government and to the Kurd Chiefs, with threats to get them punished if their orders are not obeyed, has further irritated all Moslems. Many ominous threats have been made by these latter, and even posters have been placed on the walls in Van, warning the Armenians and their Russian leaders, recalling past massacres, and hinting at future repetitions of the same if it should become necessary.

I am informed that the Armenians are still bringing arms and ammunition surreptitiously into the country.

Supposing the new régime continues, then the Turkish Armenian will enjoy an unheard-of liberty, while the Russian Armenians have only a half freedom. Formerly the Turkish Armenians intrigued to become Russians; it seems reasonable to suppose that now the Russians will intrigue to become Turkish. The Russian Moslems have always wished to become Turkish. Thus Russia will be placed in an awkward predicament with her Caucasian subjects. It appears to me that she may have the choice of two ways of remedying this: she may grant the Caucasus a more liberal Constitution, or she may make the Turkish Armenians discontent with the Turks and their new régime by intriguing and stirring up dissension in Turkey. It is too early to say if Russia intends to take either of these two courses, but the fact that the Armenians here are entirely controlled by these Russian "fedai," who have socialistic ideas very unpalatable to the Moslems, may be worth bearing in mind. Lately there have been many Russian "fedai" coming to Van from Russia and Persia, and many going to those places from Van. This may mean nothing, though I am told that the annexation of the Azerbaijan to Turkey is the aim of the revolutionaries.

I have, &c.

(Signed) BERTRAM DICKSON, *Captain, R.F.A.*

[37713] No. 39.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 30.)

Sir, *Admiralty, October* 28, 1908.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extract from a general letter dated the 8th ultimo which has been received through the Commander-in-chief, East Indies, from the Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf.

Copy has also been sent to the India Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. GRAHAM GREENE.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Commander Litchfield to Rear-Admiral Sir G. Warrender.

Sir, *"Sphinx," at Bussorah, September* 8, 1908.

IN continuation of my general letter of the 8th August, I have the honour to report having remained at Bussorah until the 19th August, when I proceeded to Bushire to meet "Lapwing" there on the 20th, with reference to the state of affairs at Bahrein-Katif.

2. "Redbreast" returned to Muscat from Kurrachee on the 8th August and left the next day, after coaling, for Henjam to await further orders there.

At this time I had no official information as to the state of affairs at Katif, and, nothing further being received by the 11th, I sent "Redbreast" on to Bahrein with orders to place himself at the disposal of the Political Agent, and detain "Lapwing" there if necessary.

"Redbreast" arrived at Bahrein on the 13th August.

Reports on the state of affairs at Bahrein–Katif have been separately submitted to you in letters of the 18th, 20th, and 28th August and 1st September.

I am not yet in possession of any further information, but hope to hear by the next opportunity that quiet is restored.

3. Having communicated with Lieutenant and Commander Gouldsmith at Bushire on the 20th, and received the latest news of the situation at Katif, I dispatched "Lapwing" to Bahrein and Katif with further instructions to Lieutenant and Commander Shuter and a letter to the Political Agent, and sailed in "Sphinx" on the 21st August for Koweit, arriving there next morning.

Your Memorandum of the 24th July, with reference to relief arrangements, having reached me on the 20th August, "Lapwing" also conveyed orders to "Redbreast" to carry out gunlayer's test in company with "Lapwing" on the 17th and 18th September at Khargu Island, and to forward advance defect lists to you forthwith.

4. Major Knox, Political Agent at Koweit, who had been informed some time previously of my intention to visit Koweit about this time, had written asking me to make a special point of this visit, as he had a matter outstanding with Sheikh Mubarak which might lead to the presence of a ship being desirable.

The trouble originated in a fight on board the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer "Waroonga," in which some Koweit Arabs were the aggressors and some native passengers were seriously wounded. The master of the ship reported the matter, and it was taken up by the Political Agent.

Sheikh Mubarak appears to have taken offence on the ground that the matter ought to have been represented to him direct by the British India Company's Agent at Koweit, who is a British Indian subject, and not through His Majesty's Political Agent.

The Sheikh gave the Agent notice to leave Koweit, stated that he did not wish the British India mail-steamers to call at Koweit in future, and that, if they did, their cargo would not be landed, and invited the Bombay–Persian line of steamers to call.

Major Knox had, however, been equal to the occasion, and when I arrived at Koweit on the 22nd August the matter had ceased to be acute, and I have since heard that it is practically settled. The mail-steamers are calling as usual, and the British India Agent remains at Koweit.

In company with Major Knox I visited Sheikh Mubarak, whose manner was very cordial. He returned my visit next morning at the Agency.

He told me that he was always delighted to see His Majesty's ships at Koweit, and quite spontaneously expressed a strong desire that Koweit should be put in telegraphic communication, either by cable or land line, to Fao. The Sheikh said that the telegraph would be largely used and appreciated by the merchants of Koweit, apart from its value in other respects.

5. I do not know whether the question of telegraphic communication with Koweit has been considered, but I understand that the connection of Bahrein by cable or wireless with Bushire is still under consideration.

It is submitted that the recent situation at Katif illustrated the convenience and possible importance of the latter communication both from a political and naval point of view.

6. I left Koweit on the 24th August and arrived at Bushire next morning, finding "Lapwing" had returned from Katif and Bahrein. The news brought by "Lapwing" was communicated to you in my letter of the 28th August. Having seen Captain Trevor, First Assistant Resident, I left Bushire on the 26th August for Bussorah, leaving "Lapwing" under orders to proceed to Muscat next morning, and to carry out passage trial on the way.

7. I arrived at Bussorah on the 27th August, and had some difficulty in obtaining a mooring berth conveniently close to the Consulate, to which telegrams are sent. At this time of the year several steamers are at Bussorah awaiting grain and date cargoes. There is no proper port authority, and ships and lighters anchor anywhere they please, regardless of the small space available. It has always been customary for His Majesty's ships to anchor abreast the Consulate, but the berth has never been indicated definitely.

This has now been done, and His Majesty's Consul is taking steps to obtain formal recognition of the berth by the various shipping agents, and to arrange for it to be kept clear during the date season, or vacated upon notice of the expected visit of one of His Majesty's ships at other times.

8. Some disturbances had occurred on shore here between Arabs and Turks

during my absence on the 22nd August, in which seven people were killed and several wounded.

A few days earlier the Russian Consulate was in temporary danger at the hands of an angry Mahommedan crowd who wished to lynch a Bagdadi Christian who had taken refuge in the Consulate. Troops arrived in time to disperse the crowd before any damage was done.

Otherwise everything is apparently quiet in Bussorah itself.

The present Vali of Bussorah has received notice of his dismissal.

The Turkish Commodore informed me that two Turkish gun-boats are about to leave Constantinople for service in the Persian Gulf and on this river. They will replace the ancient sloop "Kilad Bahir," which for many years had been stationed at Bussorah. Negotiations for towing her home are now in progress with the owners of a small British tug which arrived last week with a new steamer for the Turkish–Bagdad mail service.

Two fine river steamers have been built for this service in Belgium, and recently delivered, but are found to be unsuitable to the conditions prevailing in the upper river. The Company which owns these steamers is a private enterprise of His Majesty the Sultan.

There have been no further attacks on the Lynch steamers.

The native buggalows from India are now beginning to arrive at Bussorah for dates. I am informed that there will be a poor market for dates this year.

9. On the 9th August the ship was dressed in honour of His Majesty's Coronation Day, all ships in port, including the Turkish man-of-war and Royal Indian Mail steamer "Lawrence," followed suit.

The ship was again dressed on the 1st September, at the request of the Turkish authorities, in honour of the Accession Day of His Majesty the Sultan of Turkey. The Vali held an official reception on this day, which I attended in company with His Majesty's Consul.

10. "Lapwing" arrived at Muscat on the 30th August, and, after cleaning boilers, is to proceed on the 9th September to Sib with His Majesty's Political Agent, returning on the 12th. She will come north to meet "Redbreast" at Bushire on the 10th September, and the two ships will proceed in company to Khargu Island for gun-layer's test. "Redbreast" visited Bushire to coal on the 2nd September, and returned to Bahrein the next day, having reported no alteration in the state of affairs.

I propose to leave here early next week for Bushire, carrying out target-practice on the way.

My future movements at present depend on the date of "Perseus'" arrival in the Gulf and the necessity for a ship at Bahrein after the middle of this month.

In any case the "Lapwing" will relieve "Sphinx" in the river; but, if circumstances permit, I hope to carry out my gun-layer's test before "Lapwing" proceeds to the river.

"Redbreast" will proceed south to Muscat *en route* for Bombay as soon as her gun-layer's test is finished. She will be directed to arrive not later than the 1st October, in accordance with your telegrams Nos. 25 and 26. I shall endeavour to meet "Persens" at Muscat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SHIRLEY LITCHFIELD,
Commander and Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf.

[37920] No. 40.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 681.)
Sir, *Therapia, October 20, 1908.*

IN continuation of my despatch No. 648 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a further despatch which has just reached me from His Majesty's Consul-General at Beirout, giving an account of the divisions of parties in the Lebanon, and their different views as to representation in the new Turkish Parliament.

I may add that a few days ago the Grand Vizier again assured me that since entering upon office he had never given instructions to send Deputies from the Lebanon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Consul-General Cumberbatch to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 69.)

Sir, *Beirout, October 8, 1908.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram of the 30th ultimo and to my reply of the 2nd instant on the subject of the representation of the Lebanon in the Ottoman Parliament, I have the honour to submit the following succinct account of the movement that has been going on towards that object since the revival of the Ottoman Constitution in July (as already reported by me in previous despatches), and the strong counter-action that is now going on.

The inhabitants of the Lebanon have practically divided themselves up into three parties on this burning question of the day.

Those of the first category can be called "Conservatives," as they disapprove altogether of any change being effected in the autonomous position secured to the Lebanon by its Protocols. To this class belong, first and foremost, the powerful Maronite clergy, supported by a fairly large number of Maronites, whose landed interests, like those of the clergy, lay in the maintenance of the present economic system obtaining in the Lebanon, or whose faith in the Ottoman Parliament is very weak.

Those of the second category may be called "Liberals"; they are willing to opt for Parliamentary representation, but only on condition that their special privileges are maintained intact. To this, the most important class, belong the great majority of small land-owners and tradesmen of all sects, who felt that, though the experience of fifty years shows that modifications in their organic statute are desirable, yet they would be paying too dearly for uncertain Parliamentary benefits if the price was to be the loss of the principle of autonomy and the foreign protection guaranteed by their Protocols.

Those of the third category may be called "Radicals," as they aim for Parliamentary rights whether they are deprived of their special privileges or not. This class, though the smallest, is the noisiest, and its leaders are responsible for the agitation which led to the deplorable Beiteddin incidents of the 12th and 13th September.

The most active members of this party are the two Chief Druses and their anti-clerical Maronite friends, assisted by one or two office-seekers among the prominent members of the other minor sects, but it is unmistakably apparent that they are losing ground daily. Following on some half-dozen patriotic fêtes held in August in the principal towns of the Lebanon came the important political meetings in Beirout in the first week of September, at which the five Resolutions, referred to in my despatch No. 64 of the 9th September, were passed. The men of all sects who attended these two meetings were fairly representative, but many influential Maronites and a few minor Druse Chiefs held aloof because, though they sympathized in principle with the movement in its general aim to effect reforms, whether under the provisions of the new Constitution or by modifications of the Protocols, they were opposed to anything that would jeopardize their present privileged status.

When the sensational news of the unexpected results of the Beiteddin deputation was spread and the consequences calmly debated, they woke up to the necessity of immediate action in order to counteract the harm they considered had already been done by the deputation in demanding the proclamation of the Constitution before obtaining assurances as to the effect of such a course on their privileges.

They were still more alarmed when they heard of the doings at a mass meeting held at Aley (Mount Lebanon) on the 20th September, under the auspices of the Radicals, ostensibly to entertain the Commission of Reformers from Salonica, but really to precipitate preparations for the elections of Deputies, as was clearly shown by the orations of the selected speakers, and the subsequent action of the Governor-General of the Lebanon, who was present, and who was undoubtedly influenced by

what he heard on this occasion, both in public and in private, for a day or two later, acting ostensibly under Circular instructions a month old, but really under the forcible impressions received at Aley (in which the Vali of Beirout, himself pushed by the more ardent members of the Salonica Commission, was not altogether unconnected), Youssouf Pasha issued instructions to the Kaïmakams to take immediate steps for the election of Deputies to the Ottoman Parliament, and, in accordance with other Circular instructions, he dispatched two Delegates to each Kaza to explain the procedure to be followed.

When this further step towards Parliamentarism was made known, and the real intentions of the more advanced leaders shown up, the anxiety of the moderate sections whom I have classified as Liberals—not to mention the hitherto inactive though watchful Maronite clergy—was greatly increased, and they hurried up the counter-movement they were already organizing. Meetings have been held, and are still being held, all over the mountain; deputations have been sent to the Consulates, and many more are expected from all directions; Petitions have been received, and more are in course of preparation in every town.

The telegram addressed to your Excellency and the other Ambassadors on the 22nd September by the inhabitants of Der-el-Kamer (Maronites), who, curiously enough, were the most strenuous supporters of the Beiteddin deputation, can be taken as voicing the wishes of all the other protesting bodies now in course of exerting themselves towards convincing the Ottoman Government and the foreign Powers that the majority is not desirous of being represented in the Ottoman Parliament.

In some cases, the Petitions express a willingness to accept the new constitutional privileges conditionally on the maintenance of the present status of the Lebanon being guaranteed. In the course of a long conversation I had with Youssouf Pasha on the 3rd instant, I expressed an opinion that there was no possibility of mistaking the adverse feeling being demonstrated on all sides against the elections. His Excellency admitted that it was so, and, when I communicated to him, confidentially, the contents of your Excellency's telegram of the 30th September, he must have felt that he had made a serious mistake in having given out orders for the elections without making certain first of the sanction of the Sublime Porte.

What I know of the circumstances which led to the issue of these orders inclines me to think that Youssouf Pasha is not entirely to blame. Had he been furnished by the Sublime Porte with explicit instructions for his special conduct as Governor-General of a privileged province, he would have probably had the courage to resist the pressure brought to bear upon him by parties who, at the time, appeared to have a strong following numerically in the Lebanon, not to mention their still more powerful moral supporters in Beirout in the Ottoman Committee of Union and Progress.

The conviction I have arrived at from following all the occurrences as they have developed under my close observation is that at the commencement of the agitation the leaders were able to gather a good many fairly representative men round their banner of reform by holding out prospects of self aggrandisement at the expense of rivals and by misrepresentations as to the real object of the movement. Many of the younger educated men were tempted to join by the mere idea that they were working for reforms on a constitutional basis, whilst others felt that any change in the present form of government would be welcome.

Anyhow, the movement, in its general outlines, was popular enough to command general sympathy, and the mere proclamation of the Constitution by the Governor-General was in itself not considered as binding the inhabitants in any way, whilst the dissolution of the effete Administrative Council and the abolition of certain obnoxious taxes were acclaimed on all sides; but when it subsequently became patent to every one that the leaders had not only worked for their own personal ends, but were bent on pushing the province towards Parliamentary representation without having assured themselves beforehand as to the effect this would have on their present autonomous status, the counter-agitation was easily worked up to its present dimensions, and the authority I have to-day received, in your Excellency's despatch of the 26th ultimo, to state plainly to the leaders what I have hitherto only considered myself empowered to hint at cautiously, as to the consent of the Guaranteeing Powers being necessary, will still further strengthen the hands of the majority desirous of maintaining the *statu quo*, while it will have a cooling effect on the ardour of the agitators for unconditional Parliamentary representation, who know perfectly well that until the benefits of the Constitution are firmly established beyond all doubt in the neighbouring

vilayets and the rest of the Empire, there is little chance of the Lebanon willingly surrendering its present privileges.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

[37930] No. 41.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 697.)
Sir, *Constantinople, October 24, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus reporting generally on events during the last quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Consul Devey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 51.)
Sir, *Damascus, October 1, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith a general report on events during the last quarter.

The great *coup d'Etat* which took place in Turkey on the 24th July occupied all minds and aroused every emotion with the proclamation of the Constitution in Damascus, as in all other important centres of the Empire.

Among its results worthy of remark here were—

(*a.*) Celebrations and festivities.
(*b.*) Dismissal or resignation of notoriously corrupt officials.
(*c.*) Formation of clubs and associations.
(*d.*) Parliamentary elections.
(*e.*) Reforms in various Governmental Departments.
(*f.*) Release or rehabilitation of political exiles or persons disgraced.

Rejoicings and joyful manifestations are only now coming to an end, after lasting more than two months. More than twenty-five well-organized great meetings were held in the different quarters of the city, mostly attended by several thousand demonstrators and spectators, and hundreds of speeches were delivered, all condemning autocracy as despotic and tyrannical, and eulogizing liberty and constitutional government. About 2,000*l.* were spent on these festivities, and had not the Notables of Damascus, with the Young Turks, lately recommended their cessation, they might have continued for another month or more. It is to be remarked with pleasure that all these gatherings and demonstrations were conducted most orderly without any dispute or ill-feeling among those who assembled.

Many corrupt officials were either dismissed or withdrew of themselves. The Alaiboy of Gendarmerie, the Chief of Police, the Muhassebeji, the Secretary of the Court of Sherá, six Kaimakams of Kazas, Mohammed Pasha Adm, of Idara Medjliss, with about thirty other minor officials, vacated their posts, mostly to the general satisfaction of the public, and it is debated now among Young Turkey adherents whether it would be right to punish the officials who were led to bribery by the littleness of their pay and its frequent irregularity. Doubtless the proper course will be followed in leaving this matter to the jurisdiction of Parliament when it assembles, and the ignominious dismissal of the more corrupt, rapacious and outrageous among officials suffices for the moment. Moreover, the vacancies are not being easily filled up by really good substitutes, for such persons are at present rare and often unwilling to serve.

Damascus clubs and associations, besides the Union and Progress, now number five, viz., Hurriyet, Ulema, Medical, Commercial, Free Ottoman, besides a Shoemaker Guild. The first two are showing much activity, which is likely to excite emulation. The Ulema, through misapprehension, and with uncalled-for solicitude, are anxious to conserve and uphold Islam against the liberal views of the Young Turks, while the latter have no intention at present to interfere with religious precepts. The first

point of dispute was women's wear, which the Ulema wanted to be cut on a very simple mode, one piece enveloping the whole body; and the Liberals denied them the right of interfering with this matter, which should be regarded as pertaining to individual free choice. In this campaign the Ulema were defeated, but not without their rivals using threats of applying force. There is no record as to practical work effected by the other clubs, though their moral influence cannot be other than good.

The Parliamentary elections are under preparation the last two months, and in some kazas the voters have already voted for the electors; but in Damascus city this process will begin in a week's time. It is not even announced yet how many Deputies will represent this vilayet in the Parliament, but it is supposed that they will be eight. The Hauran people still reject their privilege to elect a Deputy, and the efforts of the Government in dissuading them from this self-inflicted loss seem to be futile. The Mutessarif of Kerak lately resigned on grounds of health; but before doing so had been able to set going a local society or club for instruction of his people of his district, who, indeed, are little less backward and ignorant than those of Hauran.

The reforms in the various Departments of the Government proceed slowly. The municipality suppressed the less properly awarded pensions, and succeeded in amassing about 3,000*l.* through various economies. The Public Instruction Department formed a new Chamber to consider the reorganization of the educational system in this vilayet. In other Departments no special reforms worth mentioning have been introduced, but many are being talked of and discussed.

The political exiles who had been released or rehabilitated included many persons of rank both military and civil. Mushir Fuad Pasha's release was the occasion of great demonstrations in Damascus, but the rehabilitation of others, with a few exceptions, was not publicly noticed, for those disgraced persons were always enjoying personal freedom, and a very few persons knew that they were "Ikamet Mamours." The chief names among these were: Mouri Pasha Ferik of Cavalry, another Ferik called Nouri Pasha sent to live here without duties, Ferik Ibrahim Pasha (these three Feriks left for Constantinople), Ferik Dr. Osman Pasha, Livi Behjet Pasha (these last two died recently), Colonel Bedri Bey (now Liva Bedri Pasha in Constantinople), the Maarif Mudiri and his assistant, and many other minor officials or private persons (such as members of Bedrkhan family) numbering more than a hundred. Further, as reported in despatch No. 32, the Ismailians subjected to religious persecution were pardoned. Happily, no sort of disorder or riotous intention was displayed here for the purpose of releasing prisoners and ordinary criminals generally, as took place in some other places.

The Hedjaz Railway was completed before the end of August, as far as Medina, 1,300 kilom. distance from Damascus, together with Haifa branch of 160 kilom., making up a total of 1,460 kilom. laid in seven years, and inaugurated in the 1st September, the anniversary of the Sultan's Accession Day. After this occasion the 2nd Battalion of the 33rd Regiment and the 3rd and 4th Battalions of the 30th Regiment, out of the five battalions employed in earthworks, were allowed to go back to their respective head-quarters, and about 1,100 of the battalions, on expiry of service, were disbanded. Moreover, the four battalions of the 40th Regiment sent to Medina from this Army Corps in June last to guard the line are also ordered back to their stations. At present only two battalions are to be kept there to take care of the line as regards repairs and protection. It would appear that there is no intention of immediately beginning to build the line beyond Medina, seeing that the Bedouin tribes manifest increasing activity against the project: and it has been heard here that the Bedouins to this side of Medina, in case the other tribes between Medina and Mecca succeed in preventing such continuation, take of an intention to destroy the line as far back as Medain Salih, but certainly the present Government will take measures to prevent such outrages. Probably the coming year will be spent in constructing the bridges and other technical works not yet made on the line. The thirty engineers with their chief, Meissner Pasha, still await fresh orders as to what to do in the future, and perhaps many of them will retire.

Public security in the vilayet has been during the quarter satisfactory, and order was properly kept. The Bedouins have been quiet and peaceful during the summer, and only on two or three occasions made petty raids and drove or carried away animals or goods, but the spoils were restored to their owners without great difficulties. It seems that the Druzes and Bedouins are to some extent under the spell of the new system of Government promising the application of strict justice and

the execution of law, and are calmly waiting to see the results of this movement, whilst there is no evident cause just now for arousing dormant animosity.

The crops this year were in general very good, and the grain harvest in most of the districts of the province was exceptionally abundant. The apricot produce was above the average, while walnuts were much below. All prices of fruit and cereals are still high, and the peasants this year will do well. An exception might be mentioned as regards locusts, which made a perceptible damage in the Kalâmoun district, but had a very slight effect in some other kazas. But the loss to the vilayet in general has been small.

As regards trade, no special remarks need be made: strikes at Beirout at the Customs and on local railways have produced only exiguous loss here. With reference to the latter we may note that public opinion judges that the smaller employés were underpaid, while the profits of the Company and of its Directors were considerable, and the public at the same time ill-served.

Public health has been satisfactory on the whole this summer, but the Ain Fijeh water has not received the general approbation anticipated, which is to be regretted, as there is absolute proof that it is the best and purest spring water of all this neighbourhood. Its distribution to all quarters of the city proceeds slowly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

[37933]

No. 42.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 700.)

Sir, *Constantinople, October 24, 1908.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 654 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting Saoud-ibn-Reshid is not dead but captured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Consul Devey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 56.)

Sir, *Damascus, October 13, 1908.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 50 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report that Saoud-ibn-Reshid was not actually killed in the recent disturbance at Hail by Hamoud-ibn-Sebhan, but was deposed and imprisoned. His brother Faissal fled to Jauf, but was surrounded and arrested, and he is now kept in confinement there. Otherwise that despatch was correct. The occasion of this mistake is that the first report reached here by telegraph from Medina and the second by letter from Nejd, which evidently should be more accurate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

[37953]

No. 43.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 721.)

Sir, *Constantinople, October , 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad, reporting on the wheat riots at Bagdad.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Major Ramsay to Government of India.

Sir, *Bagdad, September 21, 1908.*

IN continuation of my letter dated the 14th instant, I have the honour to report that the telegram of which the purport was given in the third paragraph of that letter appears to have been malevolently added to in Bagdad before it was made partially public. The original telegram, as received from Constantinople, contained no reference to the use of military force against the Young Turk Committee in provincial towns. The perverted version of the telegram was made known in Karbala.

2. On the 16th instant there was a riot in which some of the grain stores were pillaged. The exportation of wheat has for some time been prohibited, and on the 14th and 15th instant it was rumoured that a certain Jew had received permission from Constantinople to export some wheat and that he was going to load it on the 16th. On that morning a crowd went to the Vali to protest. It is said that the Vali assured them that no order had been issued allowing the export of wheat, and it is said that the Vali strengthened his assurance by saying that when an attempt to load the wheat was made it would be time for the people to make serious complaints. It is not possible to know exactly what was said, much less what was understood, but the crowd went straight off to the grain stores and took what they could carry. It was at first reported that the loss was enormous, but the estimates have since been largely reduced, and I am inclined to think that the loss cannot have been very great. The populace took what it could during an interval of about an hour and a-half, but the entrances to the store are narrow and they were choked by the crowd, so much so that a number of the rioters found it convenient to pass their stolen wheat over the wall. In these circumstances a very large quantity of wheat cannot have been removed. Messrs. Lynch's experience is that with the best arrangement, and all the wheat in bags, not more than 100 tons could be removed in an hour and a-half. A very small proportion of this can have been taken by a struggling crowd.

One man claimed compensation for about 600*l.* worth of wheat which he said he held on behalf of a British subject and which he said had been pillaged during the riot. I went to his place of business to examine his books, and he then said that he did not want the intervention of the Consulate and would settle the matter himself.

Another man who claimed compensation on behalf of Messrs. Andrew Weir and Co. of London had to admit that he could produce no proof that any Court would accept.

A third man's claim is still under consideration, but from what I have heard I am pretty fairly certain that it will not stand examination.

There is no doubt that all of these men have lost wheat, but they cannot prove that it was the property of British subjects.

3. There are a number of deserters about Bagdad who are a continual source of danger to peaceful people. I understand that the Commander of the VIth Army Corps has written to Constantinople to say that it is necessary either to come to some settlement with them or to shoot them.

4. The Young Turk Committee at Karbala has made all the officials publicly swear loyalty to the Constitution, but the Mutessarif shows a strong dislike to interference, and the Vali of Bagdad is said to be troubled with many differences between the two parties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. RAMSAY, *Major, Political Resident in Turkish Arabia and His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Bagdad.*

[38347]

No. 44.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 4.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Viscount Morley, forwards

herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a Secret despatch to the Government of India, dated the 30th October last, with inclosures, relative to the rights of the Sheikh of Koweit to the Islands of Bubiyan and Warba.

India Office, November 3, 1908.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Viscount Morley to Government of India.

(Secret.)

My Lord, *India Office, October* 30, 1908.

WITH reference to the Secret letter of your Excellency's Government in the Foreign Department, dated the 10th September last, I inclose copy of correspondence* from which it will be seen that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs considers that it would be inadvisable, in present circumstances, to raise the question of the rights of the Sheikh of Koweit to the Islands of Bubiyan and Warba.

2. There is no objection, however, to the continuance of the further inquiries that are being made under the directions of the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, as to the Sheikh's rights in these localities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MORLEY OF BLACKBURN.

[38725] No. 45.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 7.)

Sir, *Admiralty, November* 6, 1908.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter, dated the 18th September last, which has been received through the Commander-in-chief, East Indies, from His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" relative to affairs at El Katif.

A copy has also been sent to the India Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. I. THOMAS.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Commander Litchfield to Rear-Admiral Sir G. Warrender.

Sir, *"Sphinx" at Khargu Island, September* 18, 1908.

IN continuation of previous reports, I have the honour to report that all is now quiet at Katif.

2. On the arrival of the Turkish reinforcements on the 28th August a truce was established, and subsequently a peaceful Agreement was signed by the Bedouin and Katifs.

I am informed that the civil official who accompanied the troops suspended the Kaïmakam and arrested six of the principal Katif merchants, including the customs farmer.

The Turkish expeditionary force returned to Bussorah on the 16th instant.

3. The Political Agent's launch "Bahrein" was paid off on the 1st instant.

4. "Redbreast" left Bahrein on the 15th instant to carry out gunlayer's test before proceeding to Bombay.

The pearling season is practically over, and finishes completely on the 25th instant, and I am not sending a ship to Bahrein again this year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SHIRLEY LITCHFIELD,

Commander and Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf Division.

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* Nos. 15 and 25.

[38841] No. 46.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 735.)

Sir, *Pera, November* 3, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 705 of the 24th ultimo reporting on the internal state of Turkey, I have the honour to forward to you herewith two despatches from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Konia giving an account of events in that town, which, despite his apprehensions for the feast of Bairam, passed off perfectly quietly.

Captain Doughty Wylie's apprehensions are very generally shared by the Christians in Asia Minor, but I am happy to be able to state that up to the present nothing has occurred to justify them.

At Van on the 31st October a large crowd, composed of officers, Turks, Armenians, and Kurds, headed by the troops with their bands, proceeded to His Majesty's Vice-Consulate, where they made a tumultuous demonstration of friendship, and delegates of the meeting requested Captain Dickson to communicate to the British Government and people their gratitude for the disinterested sympathy and support of Great Britain.

From Bitlis the Acting Vice-Consul reports that on the 24th September a remarkable ovation was made to welcome a Deputy of the League, who arrived together with some members of the old Armenian Revolutionary Committee. A meeting was subsequently held at which it was represented that the new liberty was not given from above, but conquered from below at the cost of thousands of lives. The Kurds were profoundly impressed by this demonstration and still more by the destruction of Ibrahim Pasha. A further great step has been taken in this district by the arrest and imprisonment of Sheikh Seyid, of Khizan, whose misdeeds have so often been the subject of communication from this Embassy.

Even in Tripoli in Barbary constitutionalism seems to be making good progress. Mr. Alvarez reports that the mission thither of Kemal Bey from Salonica to endeavour to explain to the people the aims and principles of the League has been most successful.

I may here add that the effect of the happy result of the incident at the Tash Kishlar barracks has certainly been most favourable at Constantinople in strengthening confidence in the party of reform and in repressing reaction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 46.

Vice-Consul Wylie to Sir G. Lowther.

Sir, *Konia, October* 25, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to report, in confirmation of my telegrams, that in both Adana and Konia direct threats of massacre at Bairam have been made against the Christians.

At Adana the New Vali, Djevad Bey, has called for troops from Damascus and has the town patrolled by those he has. At Konia various instances of such threats were reported to me, and I informed the Vali, the local Committee of Union and Progress, and my Consular colleagues. The Vali said that he had heard nothing of it, but that he would take every precaution. He sent the Commissaire of Police to me, and I sent him to make inquiries of certain people whom I had pointed out.

In Kaisarieh my correspondent says that things are very unsettled. In the recent municipal elections eight Armenians were elected to two Turks, as already reported. This happened by the massing of the Armenian vote, given through the Council of the Church, for certain particular people, while the Turks, who have 100 votes to 180, spread their votes over a greater number of candidates and, as an absolute majority elects, were largely defeated. It may be hoped that this electioneering lesson will not be forgotten. To quiet the disturbance caused by this Armenian victory three Armenians withdrew in favour of Turks. But a fresh trouble has arisen over the President. A Turk was chosen, but was disallowed by the Mutessarif, acting in concert with the Salonica Delegate, on the ground that only with difficulty could he write his name.

Further there is a quarrel between the Mutessarif and the Liwa, who in the first of the revolution was Acting Governor. A peculator, one Sheikh Ibrahim, is the cause of the quarrel. He was imprisoned by the Liwa and released by the Mutessarif, as no one would come forward to accuse him before the Tribunal. Sheikh Ibrahim is now attacking the Liwa for wrongful imprisonment.

It is hoped that the Mutessarif, the Liwa, and the Salonica Delegate will soon be able to pull together for the peace of the town. The Sheikh, the bone of contention, is now in Konia.

No actual threat of massacre is reported, but frequent quarrels between Turks and Armenians and some beatings in the streets. The shops have been closed for two days. The Mutessarif has publicly threatened any peace-breaker with instant punishment, and the town is patrolled by soldiers.

In both Konia and Kaisarieh the price of grain is very high indeed, and the prospects for the winter are gloomy, a point in favour of reaction.

I do not think, in spite of the widespread (it comes from Broussa too) and dangerous threat of a Bairam massacre, that there will be any important disturbance if the authorities do their duty promptly. It may be an effort of reaction to influence the elections, in the middle of which we now are. The second class of electors are being slowly chosen, and the Christian vote may be terrorized.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. DOUGHTY WYLIE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 46.

Vice-Consul Wylie to Sir G. Lowther.

Konia, October 31, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, in continuation of my despatch of the 25th instant, that on the evening of that day I received your Excellency's telegram directing me to inform the Vali, and stating that rumours of trouble are current in Constantinople also. I had already informed the Vali of all that I had been told, and urged upon him measures of precaution to allay a possible panic. I had applied to my colleagues to join me in this. The Russian Consul immediately did so, but the German refused. The Vali was also approached by the local Committee of Union and Progress, to whom I had sent word. The general result was that, while not admitting that there was any danger, and declaring the whole thing was an Armenian invention to discredit the Moslems, he consented to retain in Konia 300 soldiers of the Baskir Regiment who were passing through, and to post increased guards in various places. This was all done under the pretext of the increased crowd at Bairam, and of the inconvenience of sending troops away on a public holiday. The rumour was very general in Konia, and produced much fear both among Europeans and the Christian Ottoman subjects. I hear that the station-master kept the steam up in a train all day for the expected exodus of railway employés. But after the second day of Bairam confidence was more or less restored.

The rumour appears to have come from the reactionary party, who may have thought at the same time to embarrass the new Government and to discredit it with foreigners, and to rally all Moslems to their persuasion by the cry of religion in danger. There have been electoral alliances between the reformers—Turks and Greeks and Armenians—to vote for each other's candidates in certain districts. The rumour of massacre has most effectively disposed of this. No Moslem will now vote for a Christian, nor a Christian for a Moslem.

The elections for Konia Kaza, which should finish next week, will result in all but one or all of the five members being Hodjas. There may be one lay member, but almost certainly no Christian. The Hodjas are such as preach that there can be no civilization outside the Koran. But their very election, which will in some sort render them responsible, tends to insure public order.

Sheikh Ibrahim, who, I am told, had been ordered to leave his native town of Kaisarieh by the Committee there, arrived here as the Vali's guest for Bairam. The Committee here sent a message to the Vali that the Sheikh was undesirable, and he left for Angora the next morning. The Vali resents this, and is now at nearly open war with the Committee, which will probably result in his leaving should reaction not get the upper hand.

I hear by post to-day from Adana that the troops from Beirout have arrived there,

and that Bairam had passed quietly, owing to the energetic measures of the Vali. The Consular Corps, including Mr. Loiso, went to Adana in a body to ask the Vali for precautions. He had already done all he could, but the action had some calming effect upon the people. I regret to report a strong rumour of trouble in the Hajin district, but it is as yet unconfirmed. The general result in Adana seems to be a marked division between Christian and Moslem, which is useful to the opponents of liberty, fraternity, and equality.

I have a letter from Kaisarieh, dated the 25th October, the day before Bairam. The general state of the place was quiet. The expulsion of Sheikh Ibrahim had had the effect of bringing together the Mutessarif, the Liwa, and the Salonica Delegate. The elections of the second class of electors were going smoothly. Captain Howell, travelling for the "Times," passed through here on the 28th. I propose to leave for Mersina to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. DOUGHTY WYLIE.

[39405] No. 47.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 12.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Viscount Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 22nd ultimo, relative to the Abu Musa Oxide Concession.

India Office, November 11, 1908.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Major Cox to Government of India.

Shiraz, October 19, 1908.

(Telegraphic.) P.
ABU MUSA. Your telegram No. S–601.
Position at present is as follows:—

Firstly.—Concessionnaire Hasan will at the end of Ramzan recommence removal of accumulated stuff as German may require. This operation will take at least three months. Hasan's connection with Abu Musa Island will then terminate.

Secondly.—Brother of Residency Agent at Lingah is prepared to commence mining fresh supply, either under a contract with Sheikh or on private arrangement with Residency, under which he will be guaranteed against loss.

The latter alternative commends itself to me, but I will submit details as soon as probable requirements of German subjects have been ascertained.

[39810] No. 48.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 752.) *Constantinople, November* 6, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 681 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, with regard to the result of the agitation against Parliamentary representation in the Lebanon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Consul-General Cumberbatch to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 77.)

Sir, *Beyrout, October* 30, 1908.

WITH reference to my last despatch, No. 69 of the 6th instant, reporting on the results of the agitation in the Lebanon for and against Parliamentary representation, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the majority who do not want representation have asserted themselves, and the elections that had partially commenced in some districts have died a natural death, the final blow having been given in the shape of a decision given by the Administrative Council on the 12th instant to the following effect:—

"The written and telegraphic petitions presented by the inhabitants expressing their desire, in the interests of their privileges, not to send Representatives of the Lebanon to the National Assembly having been submitted to this Council, and the Council having read the reports of the special election Delegates sent by the Government that, in spite of the encouragement given by them and by the Government officials, the inhabitants persist in their refusal to send Deputies, it is thereby to be understood that they refuse to elect Representatives for the Ottoman Parliament in order to safeguard their privileges. The submission of this decision to the proper quarter is left to the Governor."

In the meantime petitions against Parliamentary representation have continued to pour in at the Consulates-General, and will probably go on coming for some time from the outlying districts.

The number of petitions is 175, and the total signatures are close on 25,000. They represent every class and sect of the inhabitants. The organization that has been the most active in this successful counter-agitation is called the "Union Libanaise," which has some 4,000 or 5,000 members who are neither Government officials nor seekers of office, but landowners and tradespeople belonging to every sect.

They have a large working committee of twenty-five, and their programme is to support the Governor in maintaining the privileges of the Lebanon intact, and in bringing to light abuses committed by officials. They will also discuss openly any modifications in the "Règlement" which may be considered necessary in view of the progress made since the elaboration of the final "Protocoles," and submit any changes they desire to the Ottoman Government and the foreign Powers for adoption, if found reasonable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

[39814] No. 49.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 750.)

Sir, *Constantinople, November* 9, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Konia, giving his quarterly Report on his district for the quarter ended the 30th September.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Vice-Consul Wylie to Sir G. Lowther.

Sir, *Konia, September* 30, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following Report for the quarter ending to-day:—

Political.

The departure of Djevad Bey, now Vali of Adana, was reported on the 18th September. His successor at Konia, Nazim Pasha, of Halep, is arriving by way of

Mersina in a day or two. The Defterdar has been replaced, but not as yet the Mektubji, nor some judicial officials.

The province continues quiet, and taxes are being paid.

The Acting Vali told me that there had been difficulty in a few places, but that all was on the whole going well.

Tahir Bey, the Salonica Delegate who has been touring the country, returned to Konia from Eregli. He held a meeting of Hodjas, and in conversation with me afterwards assured me that he had made them loyally and firmly accept the new Constitution, and that reaction here was impossible. He is an optimistic orator, but I hope his feelings were as confident as his words. Personally, I think that under the surface reactionary feeling is still working, and Islam is always sharper set in the fast of Ramazan. A well-known Hodja has come forward as candidate for Parliament, and a certain Khairi Bey, President of the Criminal Tribunal at Salonica, a Koniali by birth. Other candidates at present declared are a minor Konak official, two Greeks, and an Armenian, while, no doubt, others from the outlying districts will be forthcoming later. The list of voters are finished, but the second class of electors have not yet been chosen. They will be largely village Mukhtars and Hodjas probably, and a difficulty arises about their meeting to vote for a candidate at the centre of each sanjak. Distances are great and communications are bad. If the expenses are to fall on private individuals they will be very unwelcome, and there is nothing said yet as to whether the State will pay. If voting by correspondence is allowed it will be suspected.

Beyshehr Irrigation.

I forward, under separate cover, a tracing of the map of the country to be irrigated. The area is, roughly, 50,000 hectares, including the bed of the Karaviren Lake. The expropriation of the lands is proceeding slowly. The chief Director was asked to undertake this work also, but up to the present has declined, having no staff for this purpose. He told me that the estimates of the water available were under the mark, and that a margin is left for a further extension of the system. He is now seeking the best outlet for the surplus and flood water.

Little work had been done on the canal itself up to a short time ago. Houses, offices, roads, &c., had to be made. Now two or three steam excavators are at work, and the chief Director hopes to have finished by the spring the main canal from Karaviren Lake. This lake has been so high this year that they have been unable to work on the canal round it, which was to carry off the waters of the Beyshehr Lake. Next spring, if the canal from Karaviren to Choumra is finished it will be opened, in order to drain to some extent the Karaviren Lake, and enable the canal round it to be pushed forward. Karaviren has a natural subterranean outlet to the south, a common feature of these high level Anatolian lakes; and once Beyshehr water is diverted it will soon dry up. It will then be intersected by smaller channels and fed from Beyshehr as required.

Mr. Waldorf tells me that for the first five years after completion some of the European officials will be left at Choumra to superintend the distribution of water. He told me that six immigrant villages had been mentioned as to be erected on the land on either side of the Bagdad Railway. These villages, together with those existing, will give the necessary cultivators. In the meantime many immigrants have left, or are trying to leave, Konia to go back to Roumelia and to Russia. Those that have money and are not in debt to the Agricultural Bank are now free to go. The Government, I am glad to say, is being thereby spurred to fresh efforts to retain them, and is promising houses and land at once. The Irrigation Company does not interest itself in finding work for immigrants, preferring to leave all labour question to contractors. This system will perhaps result in the loss of the very men who are ultimately wanted. Those with a little money of their own who have come to make homes for themselves will not stand being bullied and sweated by catch-penny gangers. The casual labourers who take their places will not settle down when the work is done. In the meantime there are constant troubles.

Konia Tramway.

This project does not move much. Heaps of stones blocking the road to the station are the only signs of its life. There was some financial leak.

Harvest.

The harvest, unfortunately, threshed out lighter the forecast. It is now said (I hope too pessimistically) that in Konia it is 25 per cent. worse than last year. There is little export as yet. Prices of cereals are still higher here than they are at Constantinople.

I have not yet been able to procure the totals of the provincial sale of tithes, but it seems that the Government will receive nearly the same revenue as last year, while the loss will fall on the tax buyer and on the grain exporter, and on such farmers as still hold stocks.

One result of this might be to strengthen the hands of those who are supporters of the fixed tax by acre, instead of the annual sale of tithes.

Opium has done perhaps fairly. Wool and mohair are both very bad, and the prices very low, the clip moderate or poor, and the stocks on hand very large.

The general result will be no money to spend on imports and fresh borrowings at the Agricultural Bank.

Distress can be easily utilized to point a reactionary moral.

Baghdad Railway.

The route by the Karkun River, which I reported as a possible alternative to that by the Charkut Su, has been surveyed by Mr. Maurogordato and rejected. He found it 30 kilom. longer, and with no better gradient.

No actual construction work is yet in hand either at Boulgourlou or Adana. Much surveying has been done and preparations generally. It is said by the extension engineers that under the new régime there is now a hope that they may be allowed to follow the more economic line to Halep by way of Castambal and Alexandretta. This line originally proposed was for strategic reasons rejected in favour of one by Killis and Tell Habesh. But whatever Government reigns in Turkey, strategic reasons remain constant.

Brigadier-General Powell, commanding a Rawal Pindi brigade, recently passed through. He will be shown the Charkut Su gorge by Mr. Maurogordato.

Colonel Murioka, of the Japanese General Staff, also passed through *en route* for Halep.

Kaisaryeh.

My correspondent there, Mr. Wingate, informs me that reaction is beginning to be felt. He hears that secret meetings of Hodjas are being held by night, and that dissatisfaction as well for Islam as for the belittled Khalif is being encouraged and made use of; but that, so far, all is quiet.

Mersina.

A new Mutessarif has been appointed, a young energetic man, by report. I propose to go there in a month's time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. M. DOUGHTY WYLIE.

[39820] No. 50.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 763.)

Pera, November 10, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to reply to your despatch No. 452 of the 2nd instant, in which you call for my observations upon a letter from Mr. Rendell Harris, inclosing a letter from missionaries at Mardin, on the subject of the recent disturbances at Viran Shehir.

In my despatch No. 624 of the 28th September, I had the honour to report the circumstances of the summons of the Government to Ibrahim Pasha to come to Constantinople, of the Pasha's refusal, his flight, and his pursuit, and in my despatch No. 705 I referred to his final defeat at Viran Shehir. He himself had fled from his stronghold, but died within two days of dysentery. The raiding and looting of his

country appears to have been mainly the work of the tribes who had gathered together in the wake of the troops, though undoubtedly, if a severe example had been made in the first few cases, such acts of plunder might speedily have been stopped. It is alleged, however, that the troops—mainly Redifs—gave the worst example in the way of looting.

I do not gather from the reports sent in by His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Diarbekir that the violence used at Viran Shehir was in any way directed against the Christians.

What I gather to have been the case was that the destruction of Ibrahim's power, which obviously could not be permitted to continue under a reformed régime, gave scope to his enemies, and to any other thieves and riff-raff within reach, to give way to their natural instincts for rapine and brutality.

The Armenian Catholic Patriarch forwarded to me a Petition which he had received, which stated that the conditions at Viran Shehir "were so awful as to be dangerous to human life." "Our possessions are attacked and our honour trampled under foot"; but the petitioners do not state that they were the object of special persecutions.

Again, the Protestant community describe in vigorous terms the horrors of the situation, and say that 3,000 to 4,000 people are homeless and starving, and that between 500 and 700 Yezidis—not Armenians or Christians—were killed.

I think considerable allowance must be made for the notorious Arab tendency to exaggeration.

I imagine that the apathy of the officers who lead the expedition permitted the occurrence of events such as happened at the capture of a town in the Thirty Years War.

Mr. Rendell Harris mentions the dangers which still impend over the Christian population of the East. These dangers are very real, and in reports which have reached me to-day from Mr. Heard, dated the 26th and 27th ultimo, he refers to threats which have been uttered in many places in the Diarbekir Vilayet against the Christians. These threats were doubtless the outcome of the religious excitement inseparable from the Feast of Ramazan, and have in no case been translated into acts. But these latter reports notify an improvement in the situation, and no outbreak has taken place up to the present moment. Every day that passes now adds greatly to the chances of tranquillity, and the League are fully aware of the imperious necessity of preventing anything in the nature of a massacre or of any movement in the nature of reaction against the Christians. They have in the last few days given fresh proof of this by the dispatch of a special Commission to examine into the state of things at Diarbekir and especially at Viran Shehir, and it may be confidently trusted that this Commission will act on very different lines from those which used to be sent in previous times from Yildiz.

The members of it are personally known to Mr. Fitzmaurice, who speaks well of them. They are: Bedri Pasha, a Brigadier-General; Vehbi Bey, an official of the Ministry of Ports, and Ohannes Effendi Torossian, a member of the Criminal Court, who was on the Commission sent to Biredjik in 1897, in which Mr. Fitzmaurice took so notable a part.

I have already mentioned that the destruction of Ibrahim Pasha had produced a satisfactory effect at Bitlis.

Mr. Safrastian's words, in describing this after reporting how the party of reaction had built high hopes on a prolonged resistance on his part to the efforts of the Government, are that it gave another proof of the efficiency of the Constitutional Government in the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[40573] No. 51.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received November* 20.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Viscount Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of correspondence relative to the condition of tribal affairs on the Aden–Dthala Road.

India Office, November 19, 1908.

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

Viscount Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, November* 11, 1908.

PLEASE refer to the papers regarding tribal affairs on the Aden–Dthala Road, which were forwarded with letter of the 15th ultimo from Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, to Political Secretary, India Office. Before instructions of any moment are sent to Resident, Aden, I presume I shall be consulted. Government of Bombay should be informed accordingly.

Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

Government of India to Viscount Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *November* 18, 1908.

WE have repeated your telegram, dated the 11th instant, regarding tribal affairs on the Aden–Dthala Road, to the Government of Bombay. On receipt of their views, which we are awaiting, we will address you on the subject.

[40853] No. 52.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 774.)

Pera, November 14, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 458 of the 3rd instant, transmitting a letter from the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company with regard to their claim against the Ottoman Government on account of the recent attack on the steam-ship "Blosse Lynch," I have the honour to report that I have notified the Minister of the Interior that Messrs. Lynch have waived their damages on the understanding that the local authorities at Bagdad and Bussorah will take steps to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future.

Hakki Bey said that the present Vali of Bussorah was an honest and energetic official, who would not, like his predecessor, foment the tribal trouble in which the attack on the "Blosse Lynch" originated. He told me that under the old régime the VIth Army Corps had been scattered and disorganized, but that he was in communication with the Minister of War with a view to having the local forces at Bagdad, &c., brought up to sufficient strength to enable them to cope with tribal disturbances.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[41597] No. 53.

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Campbell to Foreign Office.—(Received November 28.)

8, *Foulis Terrace, Onslow Gardens, London,*
November 27, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to bring to your notice the detail (Inclosure) of an undertaking which has for its object the improvement of Tripoli harbour on the coast of Syria, and the construction of an Anglo-Syrian Railway from Tripoli to Homs, a distance of 50 miles.

2. The present owner of the Tripoli–Homs road is M. Ezzidine, residing in Tripoli, who would sell the road to the Homs–Tripoli Railway Company when formed.

He is responsible for the details of the Memorandum.

3. I have approached Messrs. Erlanger and Co., British bankers and financiers, of 20, Bishopsgate Street, and they have consented to investigate the scheme in detail, and to send out an engineer and accountant to make a survey and estimate with a view to forming a British Company if satisfactory. Baron d'Erlanger is probably known to you in connection with the Liberian Loan, &c.

4. The Company will be *British*, under *London* management, with head-quarters in

the city. The estimated capital is from 350,000*l.* to 400,000*l.*, and will be raised in Syria and in London, with possible Paris assistance.

5. The contractors will be English (Messrs. Pauling and Co.).

6. Local labour would be employed to the fullest extent possible, and M. Ezzidine, who owns property along the proposed railway, would assist in local contracts.

7. Some French capitalists have expressed a desire to co-operate, and if satisfactory arrangements can be made their assistance might be accepted, but on no account will any *German* assistance be sought or *German interference* permitted!!

8. The present constitution is solely Anglo-Syrian, and, as British representative, I am most anxious to obtain a Concession from the Turkish Government for the laying of rails on the present road, and making the necessary alterations in curves, gradients, &c.

9. Under the above conditions I have the honour to request, on behalf of the Anglo-Syrian Syndicate whom I represent in England (Foreign Office letter of the 24th September, 1908), that the British Government will grant the scheme the privilege of its support, and such assistance in obtaining the Concession as is consistent with existing regulations and customs.

My anxiety for a speedy solution *re* Concession is to prevent the *possibility* of the scheme being taken up by *German capital!*

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES CAMPBELL,
Vice-Admiral (Retired).

Inclosure in No. 53.

THE TRIPOLI–HOMS RAILWAY IN SYRIA (ASIA MINOR).

Geographical Description of Tripoli.

THE town of Tripoli, over 3,000 years old, is situated on the coast of Syria on the foot of the Lebanon, about six hours' journey by steamer from Beirout. Its harbour is a natural one, and known as the best on the Syrian coast, and the largest vessels can anchor there.

The town of Tripoli lies in a wide valley, which is the entrance to the lands beyond the Lebanon and anti-Lebanon, and forms the outlet of a broad plain which lies between the Lebanon and anti-Lebanon known to be most fertile.

Population.

Tripoli has a population of nearly 50,000 inhabitants of various nationalities and religions, but principally Arabs, though the foremost trades and industries are in the hands of foreigners, mostly Greeks.

Industries and Produce of the Tripoli District.

The principal industries of Tripoli are the manufacture of soap, oils, silk, cotton, furniture, earthen and metal wares.

Great quantities of fruit, such as oranges (equal to the famous Jaffa oranges), lemons, figs, grapes, and vegetables of all kinds are grown and exported; enormous crops of cereals, wheat and barley, are obtained year after year from the rich soil, which requires very little tilling, and assisted by the regularity of rainfall caused by the proximity of the Lebanon and anti-Lebanon. Great quantities of sheep and goats are reared for their wool as well as for their flesh and milk, and the export of wool is considerable.

Climate.

The climate is an exceedingly good one, though during several months of the year the heat is at times great. There is always a fresh breeze in the afternoon, and the nights are invariably cool.

Trade.

Tripoli is the centre of the trade with the interior. From here everything that comes by sea is sent into the interior; from here all that comes by land is taken to the ships for transmission to different parts of the world. A good deal goes to Egypt.

Means of Traffic.

Up to now all traffic has to be done by camels, mules, horses, and by waggons drawn by mules and horses. This traffic is enormous, so that at times for want of animals and waggons, or in winter time when there is much rainfall, there is often a regular breakdown and great delay in transmitting goods from Tripoli into the interior and *vice versâ*.

Road Company.

The traffic is maintained by means of a well-constructed macadamized road, built by a native limited Company about forty years ago, which holds an Imperial Ottoman Concession, and has the exclusive rights of traffic on this road.

This Road Company has 300 camels, horses, and mules of its own, over 120 four-wheeled waggons able to carry about 1 ton, and a number of mail coaches for carrying the mail and passengers, as well as a kind of express parcel-post, and yet with all this the Company is not able to carry the whole traffic over its road and levy a small tax upon such mode of carrying goods and passengers.

Road Company's Plans about the Railway.

For this reason the directors of the Road Company have decided to turn the road into a railway, first of all with a view to economize in the working expenses for keeping up the traffic and to reduce the expenses for maintenance of the road, which have been ascertained to be much heavier for their road than for a railway; secondly, with a view to increasing the Company's capabilities of effectually managing all the traffic which has to pass over the road and for which it was constructed, as, in consequence of their present inability to do so, much of the traffic is passed over the Balbeck–Beirout Railway and the Lebanon road which ought to pass over this road.

Description of present Road.

The road constructed and used for traffic by the present Company starts from Tripoli and goes as far as the town of Homs, about 50 miles distant from Tripoli.

Homs is a good-sized town of 80,000 inhabitants, and the centre of a most fertile country, with good trade and industries; it is also a station of the Balbeck–Kherack Railway, a branch line of the Beirout–Damascus Railway.

Railway from Beirout to Damascus.

The reason why the traffic from Homs to the sea, *i.e.*, to Beirout, does not go over the existing railway are various: first, the greater distance to Beirout than to Tripoli; secondly, as the Lebanon has to be traversed, very heavy gradients are being used on that railway necessitating the adoption of the Abt system (rack rail), so that only a very limited number of cars can be drawn on the line at a time, which in consequence involves not only great delay, but also heavy freight rates; furthermore, as the harbour at Beirout does not allow vessels at any time to load or unload, there are always heavy charges for storage of goods.

Advantages of the future Tripoli–Homs Railway.

All these drawbacks do not exist on the Tripoli–Homs Railway, the railway passes through an easy valley to Homs without any heavy gradients, so whatever freight there may be on the line it can be rapidly and promptly disposed of, and the distance from Homs to Tripoli being much less than to Beirout the freight rates are much lower to Tripoli than to Beirout. It stands to reason, therefore, with such advantages offered by the Tripoli–Homs Railway, that all traffic, as far as it is within the Homs centre,

which radiates at the very least to a distance of 400 kilom., will be drawn to the Tripoli–Homs Railway.

There are several well-populated vilayets (about ten of them) along or close by the Tripoli–Homs road, and the whole district served by it is well populated; but the great advantage for the future traffic lies in the fact that all the important traffic, as well as the greater population, is located on both ends of the line, in consequence there will be always full-freighted trains both ways, and the rolling-stock can therefore be made use of to its full extent.

Tramways from Tripoli to the Harbour.

At Tripoli the Road Company has extensive stables for its animals and sheds for storing goods, from whence they are either carried by means of a tramway drawn by mules to the harbour or sent up-country.

This little tramway is about 1½ miles long, and carries also passengers; it also belongs to the Road Company, and pays well. The charge for a single journey from Tripoli to the harbour, or *vice versâ*, is 1 piastre.

Goods Sheds on the Road to Homs.

On the road to Homs sheds are also provided for storing goods, and stables for the different relays necessary for the freight waggons; at Homs the same is the case.

Mail-coaches and Passengers' Service.

There are two daily mail-coaches in each direction between Tripoli and Homs; these are drawn by five animals, and carry about ten passengers, besides the Government mail and a kind of express parcels service. Seats for this mail-coach must be always booked beforehand, as it is very difficult to obtain a seat unless secured a few days before the starting of the coach.

Future Expectations from Passenger Traffic.

The Road Company does not lay great value on the passenger traffic, and carries these only as it is obliged to carry the Government mail. The charges for a journey from Tripoli to Homs, or *vice versâ*, are consequently very high, and no free luggage beyond quite small handbags is allowed.

There can be no doubt that the future passenger traffic will be a source of great revenue to the future Railway Company, to judge by the amount of persons travelling on all kinds of animals—mules, horses, and even camels—as well as on waggons to be met with on all parts of the road and at the sheds. Especially if a comparatively low fare for third class travellers on the railway is charged, for in Syria, like in all hot countries, very few will walk or ride when there are other means of locomotion.

Transformation of the present Road into a Railway.

The present Road Company intends to make use of the existing road from Tripoli to Homs for laying on it a railway track wherever it is possible—only on such parts where sharp curves less than 100 metres radius or gradients steeper than 1 in 50, constructing a new railway platform. By this a great saving in earthworks, masonry, bridges, &c., will be affected, as about two-thirds of the old road can be utilized for laying down on it a track, and one-third of the road (or about 24 kilom.) will have to be reconstructed, or partly, a new platform made for the sake of obtaining larger curves and lesser grades, and even then the reconstruction of these 24 kilom. will be a comparatively easy matter, as the transport of materials owing to the existing road will cause less works and expense than would be the case in the construction of an entirely new railway. Maintenance of this railway will also be much cheaper, as the present road is macadamized; the track will be bedded on a solid platform, therefore no loss of

ballast and no settling will have to be provided for, an item to be very much considered on a newly-constructed railway.

Taking all these items into consideration, the kilometric price for the construction of this railway will be considerably below that of the usual railways of this class.

Gauge of Railway.

The gauge of this railway will be the same as that of all other railways in Syria, namely, 1·05 metres between rails.

Labour and Wages.

Labour is very cheap throughout the district which is being served by the Tripoli–Homs Railway. The average wages of a workman being about 8 piastres = 1*s.* 7*d.* a-day; skilled workmen—masons, smiths, carpenters, &c.—receive twice that amount.

Wooden and Iron Sleepers.

Wood only is expensive and rare, as it has to be imported. In consequence, wooden sleepers would have to come from abroad; and in view of the Arabs liking to steal sleepers and use them for firewood, it might be advisable and cheaper to use iron sleepers on the line instead of wooden ones.

Station Buildings and Goods Sheds.

As the climate is most excellent, and the rainy season only a few weeks every year, all buildings for stations, goods sheds, waiting-rooms, &c., need only be of the simplest kind, with the exception of those at Tripoli, where they are required for administrative purposes as well, and also for the use of the manager and his staff.

Pier for Discharging Cargo at Tripoli Harbour.

At Tripoli harbour a pier will have to be provided for discharging cargo from the vessels from all parts of the world alongside, and *vice versâ*. Owing to the sufficient depth of water being quite close to land, this pier will not be required to be longer than 300 feet.

(This pier is to be constructed by a projected Harbour Improvement Company.)

It may be mentioned that, besides a great many sailing vessels, the following Companies send their steamers to Tripoli:—

Steamers calling at Tripoli.

1. The Khedive Line.
2. The Messageries Maritimes Company.
3. The Austrian Lloyd.
4. North German Lloyd.
5. Hamburg American Line.
6. The Italian Packet Company.
7. The Russian Black Sea Company.

All these steamers carry as a rule first, second, and third class passengers, besides the usual cargo.

Tourists to Balbeck.

It must also be pointed out that on completion of the Tripoli–Homs Railway, a great many tourists will make use of this line to travel to Balbeck, where the famous ruins of the temples are, as it is the direct route to Balbeck viâ Homs. Now, the thousands of tourists who go to see Balbeck must go to Beirout across the Lebanon to Kherack, and from there by a branch line to Balbeck, and then back again, which is a great detour and very expensive.

Expected Traffic from the Hedjaz Railway.

Furthermore, when once the railroad from Damascus to Mecca is finished, which will be in about five years, there is every reason for the greater part of the Mahommedan pilgrims to Mecca, which start their pilgrimage from Damascus, to be expected to travel over the Tripoli–Homs line, as the facilities to put these pilgrims on the trains direct from the steamers with which they arrive and transport them over the Tripoli–Homs Railway, viâ Kherack, to Damascus are far greater and less costly than either at Beirout or Jaffa, to which ports the Mecca pilgrims must go at present in order to get to Damascus.

Difficulties for Landing Passengers at Jaffa.

The difficulties for landing at Jaffa are at all times great on account of a dangerous bar before the entrance of the Jaffa harbour, but sometimes it is impossible to land anybody for days and days.

Great Expectations in regard to Traffic to and from the Bagdad Railway.

A great future is also to be expected for the Tripoli–Homs Railway when the Bagdad Railway will be further advanced in its construction, for then the Tripoli–Homs Railway will undoubtedly have to be prolonged to a convenient point on the Euphrates, so as to form a connection between the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean Sea, and Tripoli will be the most important point on the whole Syrian coast for transport of goods and passengers from Egypt to the Persian Gulf. No other port can compete with Tripoli on account of its magnificent harbour and its geographical position.

Importance of the Tripoli–Homs Railway, according to the British Consul at Tripoli.

It is for this reason that Dr. Abela, our British Consul at Tripoli, is so anxious and hard at work to have this railway built from Tripoli to Homs, and in time continued on to the Euphrates, by an English Company; and it is owing to Dr. Abela's increasing efforts that the present Road Company at Tripoli is now quite willing to join in with an English Company or Syndicate to carry out this promising undertaking; which completed, other very lucrative ones will follow in course of time.

Revenues.

Based upon reliable information, the following revenues incoming from the Tripoli–Homs Railway may be expected, which no doubt will increase as the railway will show its competence to transport the traffic over its line that is brought to it, which at present is not the case with the Road Company:—

Revenues.

	£
370 tons goods of all kinds (per day) × 360 = 133,200 tons per annum, at 6*s.* 6*d.* = 865,800*s.* ÷ 20 = ...	43,290
160 passengers, third class (per day) × 360 = 57,600 passengers per annum, at 4*s.* 6*d.* = ...	12,960
60 passengers, second class (per day) × 360 = 21,600 passengers per annum, at 14*s.* 6*d.* = ...	7,920
From sundries: Telegrams, &c., tramways revenues between Tripoli and the harbour	730
Sum totals	64,000
From these revenues are to be deducted: Working expenses, administration, and Company's expenses in London, sinking and renovation fund, 60 per cent. of 64,000*l.*	38,400
Leaving net	25,600

Capital Required.

The required capital will be—

1. Cost of construction for the whole line, including rolling-stock, stations, and buildings, goods sheds, sidings, points and crossings, signals, pumps, workshops, and telephone lines.

	£
⅗ × 80 kilom. = 54 kilom. on old road; ⅓ × 80 kilom. = 26 kilom. on new road—	
54 kilom., at 2,000*l.*	108,000
26 kilom., at 3,500*l.*	91,000
Total	199,000
Financing expenses	50,000
Engineering expenses	11,000
Acquisition of present road from Tripoli to Homs, &c.	40,000
Sundries: Harbour improvement	40,000
	340,000
Company's working capital	10,000
Total capital	350,000

(Signed) HARRY H. V. SKINNER,
Chief Engineer, Tripoli–Homs Railway.

London, April 1907.

CHAUSSÉE TRIPOLI–HOMS.

TRAFFIC Returns from the Road during the Years 1900–1907.

Year.	I. Gross Receipts.				II. Expenses for—			I, II =
	1.	2.	3.	1, 2, 3.	1.	2.	1, 2.	III. Net Profit.
	General Goods.	Passengers.	Sundries.	Total.	Administration.	Maintenance of Road, Material, and Working Expenses.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1900 ..	48,710	14,920	950	69,580	750	37,400	38,150	25,730
1901 ..	48,920	15,600	630	65,150	800	37,860	38,660	26,480
1902 ..	48,870	10,000	570	65,440	800	39,120	39,920	25,520
1903 ..	54,310	16,000	910	72,020	800	42,910	43,710	28,310
1904 ..	51,570	15,320	820	67,710	800	39,090	39,890	27,820
1905 ..	52,330	16,710	700	69,820	800	41,040	41,840	27,980
1906 ..	53,500	15,800	810	70,170	900	41,075	41,975	28,200
1907 ..	54,100	15,260	1,010	70,340	950	41,050	42,000	28,340
								8)219,380
			Mean net profit ..	..	..	..	..	27,422
			Per annum ..	..	..	..	..	

(Signed) F. MABRO.

Tripoli, March 1908.

[41694] No. 54.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 796.) *Constantinople, November* 23, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 721 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith two despatches addressed by His Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad

to the Government of India on the subject of the situation in that town since the arrival of delegates of the Young Turk Committee.

I have received no confirmation of the rumoured disorders at Bussorah and Mosul, alluded to in paragraph 7 of the second of these two despatches.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 54.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ramsay to Government of India.

Sir, *Bagdad, October* 10, 1908.

IN continuation of my letter dated the 21st September, 1908, I have the honour to report that up to the 10th October popular excitement seemed to have calmed, probably because the Young Turk Committee had ceased from any active measures to excite the people. The result of their earlier preaching of equality and brotherhood, however, began to be apparent. Under the old régime, for many years at any rate, the Jews of Bagdad had little cause to complain of their lot; individual cases of injustice and oppression no doubt occasionally took place, but on the whole the community was prosperous; Jews had overflowed from their quarter of the town, and they now own a number of the best houses in Bagdad, and their competition has largely raised the rent of houses in the quarter occupied by Europeans; the establishment of a good school managed by the "Alliance Israélite" of Paris has done much to raise the social and relative position of the Jews, and I do not think that they had any particular grievances.

Still, in spite of these improvements, a Jew was not considered to be the equal of a Mahommedan, and, in case of insult or annoyance, a Jew would beg or plead rather than show resentment.

After the Young Turk Committee had preached equality for some time a number of the less-intelligent Jews seemed to think that they were entitled to be treated as equals by Mahommedans, and to feel that they had the powerful support of the Young Turks, whose proceedings in Turkey in Europe showed that they were really powerful. The Jews therefore, or some of them, began to show an independence of attitude which rather annoyed the Mahommedans of the old school, and put them against the Young Turks. Stories are told and believed, and it is more important that they were believed than that they were true, that Jews had abused Mahommedans and had even met violence with violence, and that in cases of altercation they had claimed absolute equality with Mahommedans. Such things were never dreamt of in Bagdad, and it caused the more conservative people to think that the Mahommedan supremacy might be in danger from the Young Turks.

2. This feeling was aggravated by the fact that some of the more active of the Young Turks are not very strict in the outward observances of the Mahommedan religion. This might, perhaps, have passed unnoticed at any other time of the year, but it is said that many of the Young Turks have not been keeping the Ramadan fast, and some have been so foolish as to show their independence by smoking in the streets. There were many people who feared that the Young Turks thought more of their political ideas than of the injunctions of the Mahommedan religion, and that the Jews showed a tendency to think that they need no longer show any respect for the ruling race and the dominant religion.

There were, of course, many persons who were likely to suffer from any change in the system of government, and the Young Turk Committee, with good intentions, were guilty of what, in more experienced men, would have been incredible folly in the way they made enemies of local magnates.

3. The personality of Nazim Pasha, the present Vali, has unfortunately proved quite unequal to the task of governing Bagdad at a critical time. He had been here for some months as President of a Committee of Reform. In the course of his labours, though he brought about no reforms, he put himself into violent opposition against the then Vali, Nazim Bey, and in the struggle that ensued he made friendships and amities which were entangling when he became Vali. Further, he was known to have been appointed by the Palace clique, and consequently he did not command the confidence of the Young Turks.

Still, when the change came at Constantinople, and a Young Turk Committee was formed at Bagdad, he allowed himself to be very much under their influence. He

also, in the matter of the embargo on grain, allowed himself to be dictated to by a noisy and rather aggressive popular demonstration. It is said that he welcomed and assisted the forming of an Opposition Committee locally known as the "Mashwar." This Committee is formed of the leading Notables of Bagdad and the priestly classes. The Nakib is a member of it, and the other most prominent members are Issa Effendi Jamilzade, Yusuf Effendi-ibn-Ata, and Sheikh Said. This Committee does not admit to being reactionary or opposed to the Constitution, but it is essentially religious and conservative. It might have served a very useful purpose if there had been a little more wisdom and experience among its members and among the members of the Young Turk Committee, or if the Vali had been a strong enough man to influence both Committees. In the actual circumstances the Mashwar came to be looked on as the centre of opposition to Liberal ideas.

4. However, nothing remarkable occurred until the 10th October when Hamdi Bey, Suria Bey, and Umar Bey, arrived at Bagdad as the representatives of the Salonica Committee. Hamdi Bey is a young man of about 25 years of ago, by birth a representative of the Baban Kurds of Sulcimania, but by bringing up a Constantinopolitan. He has large properties near Bagdad, and he has been living here for some time before about March 1908, when he was suddenly arrested and deported to Alexandretta, on the ground that he had been in correspondence with the son of Midhat Pasha. Suria Bey is a young doctor whom I do not know personally; he was deported from Bagdad with Hamdi Bey. The third representative, Umar Bey, has, as far as I know, no former connection with Bagdad. I have heard not a word against the honesty and good intentions of these young men, but they lack experience and knowledge of affairs. Suria Bey is said to be not always very guarded in his utterances, and I heard that Hamdi Bey rather unwisely let his tongue run away when he met Isa Effendi Jamilzade in the house of the Commander-in-chief.

On the arrival of these delegates an ostentatious reception had been organized. It is said that this was not very palatable to the Vali, who considered it a public sign that his power was likely to be curbed, and who knew that his position must become more critical when he could be reported on by members of the Salonica Committee. I am informed that there was only one Jew on the official Committee of Reception, but the day being Saturday the Jews were all idle, and a great number of them went to see the arrival. This perhaps tended to strengthen the idea that the deputies were supporters of Jew independence. What, however, gave the greatest and most serious offence to the Mahommedans was the fact that the Mektubchi of the vilayet, a prominent member of the Young Turk party, was seen smoking before sunset and during the Ramadan. I think that a want of attention to the requirement of the Mahommedan religion on the part of the Young Turk is what has really caused resentment and excitement in Bagdad.

5. On the 11th October Rifat Effendi, a Commissaire of Police, went about the town shouting out a notice which had been brought from Constantinople, calling upon the people to come the next day to the Wazir Mosque and hear a speech which had been delivered at Salonica.

6. On the 12th October, in the evening, Umar Bey, Hassan Effendi, the President of the Local Young Turk Committee, Shukar Effendi Abusizade, Maruf Effendi Rasali, and others, went to the mosque and read out the speech, the gist of which was that Members of Parliament should be chosen more for their good qualities than for their local influence or wealth. The events that took place at this reading were the immediate cause of the disturbance that ensued. Accounts differ so widely that it is impossible to know what really did happen. The Extreme Mahommedan party allege that Maruf Effendi interrupted a reading of the Koran or a religious discourse in order that he might read his political speech; that Jews and others entered the portion of the mosque which is set apart for worship; that a Jew was told that he should not be there; that he replied that there was now freedom, and that he had a perfect right to be there, and that it was with difficulty that the more violent members were prevented from murdering the Jew. The story, as told to me by the official head of the Jewish community, is that the Jews are in the habit of going into certain parts of the Sunni Mosque premises; that on this occasion some Jews went into the non-prohibited part of the mosque at the invitation of Mahommedans. Some people say that the Koran reader or preacher was not interrupted, but that he was inside the mosque, while the political speech was read by Maruf Effendi in the courtyard. Whatever the exact facts may be, it seems clear that a Jew or Jews were present at the ceremony, and that there was no disturbance at the time. I therefore conclude that though the Jew or Jews may have been foolish to go to such a ceremony they did not really do anything to desecrate the mosque.

It is almost inconceivable that a Jew would dare to do such a thing, and with no prospect of gain by doing it.

7. The same evening the Mashwar recorded a Memorandum setting forth that a large number of people had come to them complaining that the mosque had been defiled and the Koran dishonoured by three people accompanied by a crowd belonging to several nationalities. The Memorandum was sent to the Vali the next day for his information. It has been said that some of the Mashwar advised the people to collect the boys and youths and make a demonstration against the Jews, arguing that the Government would not take serious notice of what was done by the young only.

8. In the evening of the 15th October a very large crowd went to the house of the Vali; it is said to have started from the Mashwar; it was entirely composed of Mahommedans, and as it passed the house of an Englishman he overheard "all sorts of language about Jews and Christians." I understood that the crowd told the Vali that they did not appreciate the new liberty, and that they demanded the dismissal of the Mektubchi of the vilayet on the ground that he had publicly smoked during the Ramadan. It is said that the Vali agreed to dismiss the Mektubchi, and he told the crowd to come to him the next day for an answer. It is not clear what it was that the Vali was to answer; but it is, I believe, a fact the Mektubchi has been dismissed or suspended.

Some of the leading members of the Mashwar reached the Vali's house soon after the crowd, and when the crowd had left the Vali sent for Hamdi Bey and his companions and asked if they would agree to the arrest of Shukri Effendi, Maruf Effendi, and Abdul Latif. The first-named two were present at the reading in the Mosque, and the third may also have been there; he is unpopular with the Conservative party because he writes articles in favour of Liberal ideas.

Hamdi Bey would not agree to having the leading members of his party arrested.

The dismissal of the Mektubchi appears to me the most serious part of the day's proceedings. The Vali must have known that the Mektubchi and others employed under his orders do not seriously keep the Ramadan, and if he had, without pressure pressure from outside, taken action against them it might have been a wise thing to do. The Vali had given in to demonstrators when he forbade the export of grain; he had given in to the pressure of the Young Turks when he dismissed Abdul Rahman Pasha, the President of the municipality, and when he withdrew his nomination of Essa Effendi Jamilzade. When the question of the dismissal of the Mektubchi arose, he had a splendid opportunity of asserting himself. He could have told the crowd that he would not allow them to interfere in such a matter, and that he was and meant to be the real as well as the nominal head of his own office. Instead of taking up this line he again gave in to the demonstrators.

9. On the 14th October the Vali again sent for Hamdi Bey, and the latter agreed to the arrest of the three members of his party, because, apparently, he thought anything was better than serious riots. I believe that the three men, as well as one or two others, were arrested and put in confinement during the day. It is said that they are still in jail, because, when the Vali was willing to release them, they declined to leave the jail until they were told the information on which they had been arrested, so that they might be able to take legal steps against their accusers. I have heard nothing against the truth of this story, and it is generally believed. The weakest of Valis might be expected to put a man out of prison or else bring some accusation against him.

The Vali had told the deputation of the previous night to come to him again, but he had made no kind of arrangements for keeping order, and he had not, as far as I can learn, warned the military authorities. In the forenoon demonstrators arrived from five quarters of the town, and the large square in front of the Sarai was closely packed as well as the bazaars. The crowd attacked nearly every Jew who was seen, and no one seems to have interfered with them for many hours. One Englishman who was in the bazaar said that, as far as he could judge, the boys and youths were the chief assailants of the Jews, but another Englishman who was in the custom-house said that he had to pass through a very unpleasant-looking crowd of low-class men, whose presence prevented a large number of Jews from leaving the custom-house. Foreigners and Christians were not interfered with, but it is said that no Jew who was seen and recognized escaped quite free.

All the bazaars were of course closed, and Mr. Cree also closed his business. The Vali is said to have told the people that he would telegraph their wishes to Constantinople and let them know the result; he is also reported to have said that he was only an intermediary between the people and the Government.

The Russian Consul-General went to the Sarai. Apparently he thought that the

crowd gave him some kind of welcome, for he took off his hat and bowed, upon which he was openly hooted.

10. At about 9 P.M. the Vali's dragoman came to assure me on the part of his Excellency that nothing serious had taken place, that exaggerated stories were being circulated, and that there was no cause for anxiety. I replied that, if some people exaggerated, others minimized, and that I was astonished that his Excellency should consider that the situation was not grave. I said that as the Jews were large supporters of British trade, any general attack upon them touched our interests, and that a stronger Government than Bagdad had enjoyed for some time seemed to me urgently needed if serious disturbances were to be avoided.

I think the Vali's dragoman gave twelve as the approximate number of the Jews who had been robbed and assaulted. The general opinion is that very large numbers of assaults and robberies took place, and the figures given to me by the official leader of the Jewish community are as follows: seriously wounded, 2; wounded with knives, daggers, and sticks, from 80 to 100; slapped, insulted, and deprived of fez, articles of clothing and jewellery, any number up to about 2,000.

The Jewish member of the Administrative Council of the vilayet tried to go to the Sarai, but the police told him that they were unable to protect him owing to the density of the crowd.

11. On the 15th October things were much quieter, though a certain number of Jews are said to have been annoyed and interfered with in the streets. I had asked many people whether the army was likely to take the side of the Young Turk Committee or of the populace, but no one seemed able to give an opinion on the subject. I therefore sent my dragoman to see Muhammad Pasha, the Commander of the VIth Army Corps. He said that the army could be trusted to obey his orders, and that he did not mean to allow any serious disturbances, but that he would, if necessary, keep the public peace with or without the approval of the Vali. Muhammad Pasha is not a well-educated man, but his personal courage is notorious, and he is, I believe, popular with the soldiers.

On the night of the 15th a crowd again assembled near the Mashwar, and Sheikh Said is said to have harangued the crowd, pointing out that Jews, Christians, and others living under Mahommedan protection should not be ill-treated, as such was against the Mahommedan law.

12. On the 16th October I sent a telegram to the Embassy, of which I inclose copy (purport).

13. The responsibility for the ills that have befallen the Jews must mainly lie upon the members of the local Young Turk Committee. The Jews claimed neither liberty, equality, nor brotherhood, and would have been more than content with justice. They were making steady progress in Bagdad, and were getting to be less despised and looked down on than they had been in the past; but, of course, the old feelings of mutual hatred and distrust between the Mahommedans and Jews still remained existent. The Jew has often been called a dog, but at Bagdad I have seen a boy spit on a dog and call him a Jew, as an insult to the dog. On the other hand, a Jew tells me that among the lower-class Jews the mothers frequently teach their children that it is better to help a dog than a Mahommedan. This being the state of feeling between the lower classes of the two communities, it is easy to understand that the Jews were inclined to parade their so-called equality in a way that gave offence, and that they rather came to be looked upon as the protégés of the Young Turks. The demonstration against the Jews probably went a good deal further than was intended by the promoters of it, who perhaps only wished, as they thought, to reduce the Jews to a respectful attitude, and at the same time to give a lesson to the Young Turks. I believe that the feelings of the better-class Mahommedans is that the Jews should not have been indiscriminately attacked and robbed, and, if the outbreak is considered one of a fanatical nature, I think the wonder is that the Jews did not suffer more severely.

14. At the moment of writing (18th October) I do not think that any further action is likely to be taken against the Jews, but they undoubtedly form the most wealthy portion of the population, and there are a number of lawless people in Bagdad who would seize any opportunity of robbing them or of pillaging the Jewish quarter. What causes me to be apprehensive for the immediate future is the character of Vali Nazim Pasha. I have not discussed the situation with any one who does not think that Nazim Pasha has shown lamentable weakness, and there is a general impression that he is incapable of maintaining order. In case of more violent disturbances I hope that Muhammad Pasha, the Commander of the VIth Army Corps, might assert his position. Some weeks ago when he was calling on me he said that he thought the European

Powers would forcibly interfere if Bulgaria encroached on purely Turkish soil. I asked him, half-laughingly, if he expected to bring Europe upon him when he went to Sujbulak. He quite warmed to the subject and said that he had gone to Sujbulak in direct contravention of orders, and that he had only taken this grave responsibility on himself because he believed that if he shirked it there would be a massacre. When my dragoman went to call upon him on the 15th October he referred to this conversation and said that he would prevent serious disorders here, even if he had to act on his own responsibility. I believe that he is popular with the soldiers, and he is certainly not a man with whom any one is likely to take liberties. I think he is in favour of the new régime.

15. If the Young Turks will only keep quiet I do not see why there should be further disturbances, but they are young men with no experience of guiding or gauging public opinion; on the Reactionary side also there is no tact or wisdom, while the Vali is apparently afraid to oppose either party instead of being ready to oppose both when they do foolish things. Given a weak Governor, a moderately wealthy Jew community, a large number of disorderly characters and the cry, whether well or ill-founded, that the Mahommedan religion is in danger, it is clear that the position may become critical. A large number of the younger officers of the army belong to the Young Turk party, and some also of the older officers, but the men are mostly locally recruited and they might hesitate to act against a local Mahommedan mob. I think the army could be counted on with much more certainty if it was found possible to pay them and so attach them to the new Government.

16. When the Young Turk Committee came to call upon me I advised them to be moderate and to make no enemies, but with this exception I have studiously refrained from all interference with local politics. I did not even press for the exportation of grain which had been booked by Lynch's steamers and on which export duty had been received by the custom-house, because I did not wish to give any one the chance of turning public opinion against the foreigners in general and the English in particular. Things having come to their present state I think I should more actively advise moderation. It is pitiful to see these well-meaning people adopting a procedure which is bound to lead to trouble. I am going to make no attempt to convert any one from his own ideas, but shall try to persuade each party to avoid provocative proceedings which ordinary foresight shows to be certain to lead to trouble and not likely to attain the desired result.

17. My suggestions for immediate action are contained in the concluding paragraph of my telegram to the Embassy. I think that in a backward place like Bagdad the Young Turk party should be content to adopt a waiting and watchful policy. Bagdad is to return three Members of Parliament; two Mahommedans and one Jew; it may safely be assumed that the Jew will be in favour of Liberal ideas, and, consequently if both the Mahommedan seats go against the Young Turk party the results will not be very serious. On the other hand any attempt at electioneering methods in Bagdad may raise a dangerously fanatical spirit which might be the cause of grave disturbances; if really serious disturbances were to break out there are many lawless characters who would be attracted by the hope of plunder, and it is not a great stretch of the imagination to suppose that the Arab tribes might join the movement, and the position of the Turks here would then be more than critical. In the present state of the Turkish Government it can have little strength to send to Bagdad.

The Young Turks are intelligent enough to understand that the fight for freedom is not going to be decided at Bagdad, and they can therefore afford to play a waiting game there. The Reactionary party, on the other hand, are inclined to think that their future condition depends on what happens here, consequently they will strain every nerve to oppose the Young Turk party. It is to be hoped that in time the Central Government will be able to send liberal and enlightened men to fill the chief posts in Bagdad, and when the people see by ocular demonstration that the new party gives security and decent Government the power of the Reactionaries will become comparatively weak. It cannot be too strongly impressed upon the authorities at Constantinople that what is good for the more civilized parts of Turkey is not, in the present circumstances, good for Bagdad.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. RAMSAY, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Political Resident in Turkish Arabia, and His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Bagdad.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 54.

Purport of Telegram from Lieutenant-Colonel Murray to Sir G. Lowther, dated October 16, 1908.

IN compliance with demand of a public demonstration, the Vali prohibited the export of wheat.

2. A grand reception was given to Hamdi Bey and the other representatives of the Young Turk Committee when they arrived here on the 10th October.

3. An exhortation to elect capable rather than rich and influential Deputies was read publicly in a mosque on the 12th October by one of the Young Turk party.

4. On the 13th October the Vali was informed by a local opposition Committee, consisting of clerics and Bagdad Notables, that they had received a deputation complaining that the mosque had been defiled and the Koran dishonoured. Jews are permitted to enter the premises of Sunni mosques in Bagdad, and I believe Jews were present at reading of exhortation. The Notables and clerics are said to have advised a demonstration.

5. Large deputation went to the Vali's house on the 13th October to protest against new liberty and brotherhood, and to demand the maintenance of the Mahommedan religion. They said that the Alektubchi had been seen smoking in public when he should have been fasting, and they therefore demanded his dismissal.

6. Several men who were objectionable to the agitators, including the man who had read the exhortation, were arrested by the Vali on the 14th October. Another immense deputation went to the Serai, and it is said that the Vali promised to telegraph to Constantinople for orders, saying at the same time that he was only an intermediary. Jews were indiscriminately ill-treated and robbed, and bazaars were closed. The Jews say that 2 are dangerously wounded; from 50 to 100 wounded with daggers, knives, and sticks; and an unknown number, perhaps up to 2,000, insulted, slapped, and robbed. The Vali informs me, through his dragoman, that there is nothing serious.

7. Nazim Pasha is very weak and probably reactionary in his ideas, but he was subservient to the Young Turk Committee. He is supposed to have encouraged an opposition Committee, and is largely in their hands. There seems to be a consensus of opinion that Nazim Pasha is unfit to be Vali. There is no Government, and if he remains I fear serious disturbances. It is said that the new Vali of Bussorah is going to arrive at Bagdad to-day. Can he not be detained here if he is a good man? Fakhri Pasha might do here; he is not personally known to me, but he reduced Bussorah to order, and he has the reputation of being a strong and clever man, though intriguing and unscrupulous. To insure a reliable force being on the side of law and order, money is urgently needed to pay the army. I am preaching moderation to both sides, but it is no longer possible for me to stand quite apart. The Commander-in-chief of the VIth Army Corps says that he will, on his own responsibility, maintain order if necessary, and that he has the army behind him.

Bagdad is backward, and the Young Turks should understand that their ideas of absolute equality cannot be accepted by the public here. I think that for the present they should only try to assist order and try to get justice done in special cases.

Active liberal propaganda here will probably lead to serious riots, and may possibly lead to a massacre of the Jews. Only one Christian has been molested, and foreigners are ignored; but this may not continue.

Bad characters will be attracted by serious disorders at Bagdad, and they may be joined by the Arab tribes, who are none of them friendly to the Turks. It is not very imaginative to suppose that serious disorders here might mean the temporary loss of Mesopotamia to Turkey.

8. I suggest, if possible, that Nazim Pasha be recalled; that money be provided to pay the troops; that Young Turks be told to desist from any active political campaign; that Sultan should telegraph to Nakib to put his influence on the side of order, assuring him at the same time that the Mahommedan religion is not threatened; and that a similar telegram be sent to Isa Effendi Jamilzade by the Grand Vizier. Isa Effendi is one of the most active organizers of the opposition and demonstrators, and it would be a good thing to fix some responsibility on him.

9. Shall I agree to send cypher messages for Hamdi Bey if he asks me to do so, as I think he will? I have no wish to be identified with the Young Turks, but it would be an advantage if these inexperienced young men could be brought under the influence of some responsible person.

Inclosure 3 in No. 54.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ramsay to Government of India.

Sir, *Bagdad, October 25, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to submit a further Report, in continuation of my letter dated the 19th October, 1908, regarding the condition of affairs at Bagdad.

2. On the evening of the 19th October I had a visit from Hamdi Bay, who said that he had been almost overcome by the events of the preceding week—events which had been caused by nothing that the representatives of the Salonica Committee had done. He said that the local Young Turk Committee had been dissolved, and that another Committee would be formed, consisting of the Salonica representatives and certain selected members of the local Committee. I pointed out to Hamdi Bey the need for adapting the policy of the Young Turks to the different classes of the population with which they had to deal, and I tried to impress upon him the firmness of my conviction that it was to his interest to do as little as possible to excite popular feeling. So far, I think, he agreed with what I said, but when he began to smoke in my office before sunset I told him that the flagrant disregard of the Young Turks for the outward observances of the Mahommedan religion was the real cause of the trouble that there had been in Bagdad. He was at first inclined to adopt the attitude that each man was free to judge for himself what was right, and it was with great difficulty that I could get him to understand that what was perhaps morally right might be politically inexpedient. I think that eventually he began to understand that the Conservative party had been furnished with a most powerful weapon when they were put in a position to say that the Young Turks were not good Mahommedans, and to offer the populace what they considered ocular demonstration of the fact. I could not, however, persuade him to promise to keep the fast, or even to give up smoking. In reply to my insistence on the need of caution and moderation, he said that he was worn out with preaching moderation to the young officers, who wanted to assault every one who did not agree with them. Finally, Hamdi Bey said that he was convinced that the work he had undertaken required an older and wiser head than his, and that it could be better done by a man having no former connection with Bagdad. He said that he had personal enemies in the Conservative camp, and that he thought the differences would not be so acute if this were not the case. He was therefore inclined to return to Constantinople, and he asked me if I advised him to do so. I replied that I was scarcely in a position to give him positive advice, because I knew so little of the character of the companions he would leave as representatives of the Salonica Committee, and if it was correct that he spent all his energies in preaching moderation it might be a pity if he were to go; on the other hand, it would be a good thing to make political discussions at Bagdad less personal than they actually are.

3. On the 21st October the French Consul told me that he had received information that Nazim Pasha would be relieved as soon as a suitable man could be found. As a matter of fact, Nazim Pasha has already handed over temporary charge of the vilayet to the Commander of the VIth Army Corps. Muhammad Pasha is essentially a soldier, who has no taste for administrative work, and is anxious to be rid of it; but I think he is a man of good intentions, and he commands both respect and fear.

4. £T. 5,000 has been received for the troop. Nazim Pasha told me that it would be paid on the Bairam (Id).

5. Since last writing nothing serious has occurred in Bagdad, but there is a general feeling of nervous apprehension, and all sorts of stories are current and largely believed. It is said that there have been serious disturbances at Mosul in which forty persons were killed; it is also said that there have been riots in Bussorah in which soldiers were killed. The streets of Bagdad are still patrolled by soldiers. On the 23rd or 24th a disturbance was expected, for no definite reason as far as I can learn, and consequently there was a panic during the day, and the shopkeepers began to close their shops; they were prevented from doing so by the soldiers, and temporary confidence was restored. I hear that this morning a Jew was wounded and robbed in the town; and two nights ago, near Kadhimain, two British subjects were robbed and seriously wounded. What makes people most nervous is a persistent rumour that there will be violent disturbances on or immediately after the Id; it is said that a number of turbulent Arabs are coming into the town to join in the anticipated riot.

6. I can see no definite cause over which a dispute is likely to arise, because, as far as I can learn, neither of the political parties is being active at the present time. Still,

there can be no doubt that there are ample materials to cause a most serious riot, and that there is a very disorderly spirit abroad, which gives the calmest people cause for anxiety.

7. I sent my dragoman to see the Nakib Effendi and beg him to exert his utmost influence with the population to remain quiet, and he said that he would do so. I also told the dragoman to point out to the Nakib that his name was being used to his detriment by people who had for years been his enemies, but who now pretended to be his friends. I need not mention names in this letter, but I hope that my message may have had some effect in reducing the influence of the party which is supposed to have instigated the action taken against the Jews last week.

8. His Excellency the Ambassador had approved my going to Bussorah at the end of October, but I have not thought it right to leave Bagdad.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. RAMSAY, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Political Resident in Turkish Arabia, and His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Bagdad.*

[41700] No. 55.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 802.)

Pera, November 24, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that, on the recent sudden death of Sherif Abdulla, the newly appointed Grand Sherif of Mecca, the Sultan, on the advice of the Grand Vizier, has appointed to this very important post the Sherif Hussein Pasha, an upright man, who is unlikely to connive at or condone the exactions on pilgrims or other malpractices of his predecessor under the old régime.

I should add that some months ago, *i.e.*, before there was any question or likelihood of his becoming Grand Sherif of Mecca, Sherif Hussein Pasha sent me a very friendly message, expressing his feelings of gratitude to England for her sympathy towards the Ottoman Constitutional movement. He at the same time wrote to influential Arab Chiefs in the Hejaz, enjoining on them the duty of all Moslems to cherish friendly sentiments towards England for her championship of the cause of freedom, which was conducive to the best interests of the Moslem State.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[41703] No. 56.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 806.)

Pera, November 24, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 650 of the 9th ultimo concerning the progress of events in the Asiatic provinces of Turkey, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a despatch I have received from His Majesty's Consul-General at Smyrna. You will perceive that Mr. Barnham's picture of the administrative condition of that important centre is far from bright, that he describes the Vali as inefficient, the Law Courts inactive, the police indifferent, and brigandage increasing.

I have brought the substance of this despatch to the notice of the Minister of the Interior in a private manner, and his Excellency admitted that Raouf Pasha, although an honest man, was a disappointment. The Government had hoped for better things from his tenure of office, and were now looking for a more suitable Governor. He promised to call the attention of the Minister of Justice to the condition of the Tribunals, and he stated that the increase of brigandage was due to the unfortunate decision taken in the first days of the new régime to liberate all those who were in prison.

I regret to say that a similar dislocation of the administration is reported from several other parts of the country, though these despatches are dated at the beginning of this month, so that it may be hoped that since the time of their writing matters have been improved.

His Majesty's Consul at Jeddah suggested in a despatch dated the 5th instant that,

considering the doubtful state of the country and the want of authority of the Government, it would be desirable that a British war-ship should be ready in some part of the Red Sea within telegraphic communication with him, and that it might proceed to Jeddah if necessary during the present pilgrim season.

Reinforcements of troops have now, however, been sent to the Hedjaz, and their arrival, as well as that of the new Grand Sherif, should have a tranquillizing effect. I hear that about two weeks ago a combined attack on the Turkish posts around Mecca and Medina was made by the Arab tribes, but was in all cases successfully repulsed.

The Commission which was ordered to proceed to Veranshehir has not yet started, several of the members having resigned through ill-health or other causes. A fresh Commission is now being formed. Meanwhile, the Vilayet of Diarbekir seems gradually to be quieting down, although the authority of the Government has not yet asserted itself, and the state of the country which used to be under Ibrahim Pasha's authority appears to be still in a condition of great disorder.

At Bitlis also the Government is showing indecision, and the fact that no example has been made of some of the more notorious Kurdish brigand Chiefs of the past is tending to dishearten the Armenians, and to strengthen the Kurds in the idea that no change after all has really taken place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Consul-General Barnham to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 116.)

Smyrna, November 19, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to submit a short review of the present situation at Smyrna:—

No serious attempt has been made to administer the vilayet since the Constitution was proclaimed. It was hoped that the appointment of Raouf Pasha in succession to Fuik Bey would have been attended by good results, but he has disappointed every one. It may be thought that, after enjoying the advantage of being governed by his Highness Kiamil Pasha, the Smyrna public are difficult to please, but the condition of the various Departments of the Government shows that there is no controlling hand.

The Council of Administration does not meet because its members are ill or absent. The Commercial Court and Criminal Court have also suspended their sittings lately for the same reason, and British cases remain unheard. There is no longer an inspector of Justice to whom one can complain of the dilatory conduct of the Courts.

Mazhar Bey, the Police Commandant, who has had a long experience of the Smyrna criminal classes, has been appointed to Uskub, and since his removal incendiary fires and burglaries have become frequent.

A band of brigands, believed to be that of "Captain Andreu," has appeared at Hadjilar, near Bournabat, and I have induced the Vali to place a few soldiers both at Bournabat and Boudjah for the protection of the English residents. There are, however, no mounted gendarmes for this service, and until they are found no serious attempt will be made to clear the country of this pest.

Disturbances occurred here last Saturday in connection with the elections, but not attended with serious consequences. I hope to submit a special report upon the elections in a few days.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

[41877] No. 57.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 407.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tehran, November 30, 1908.*

PROTECTION of subjects of Bahrein. Your telegram No. 190 of the 16th May last.

I have received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs the draft of an amended note which, subject to the concurrence of the Grand Vizier, his Highness proposes to send me. The only passage to which exception can be taken is the following: "if the previous notes from the Minister for Foreign Affairs in regard to Bahrein and

its inhabitants are referred to the situation in that place, and the arguments of the Persian Government will be quite clear to you."

Ala-es-Sultaneh has had considerable difficulty in getting a predecessor's note amended, and I doubt that we shall be able to get anything more satisfactory from the Persian Government unless the general question is raised, though it might be possible to get the words "situation in that place" omitted.

I request that I may have an early reply as to whether I may accept the note with or without this omission.

I should put in afterwards, as an implicit reaffirmation of our right, another Bahreini claim which I have to present.

[41877] No. 58.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Foreign Office, December 2, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 13th May last, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, the accompanying copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran respecting the claims of the Persian Government to sovereignty over the Island of Bahrein.*

Sir E. Grey proposes, subject to the concurrence of Lord Morley, to authorize Sir G. Barclay to accept the amended note of the Persian Government, but only with the omission which is indicated.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS MALLET.

[42600] No. 59.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 813.)

Sir,

Constantinople, December 1, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Jeddah reporting on disturbances in the neighbourhood of Medina and at Mecca. I also inclose copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus reporting on the fighting near the former town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Consul Monahan to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 60.)

Sir,

Jeddah, November 18, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to report the following matters with reference to the situation in this vilayet.

On the 21st October a caravan, guarded by ten mounted soldiers under an officer, was proceeding from Medina to the coast, when, at a short distance from the town of Medina, it was attacked by Bedouins of the Beni-Ali and Auf tribes, tribes akin to each, of which the Auf attacked Kazim Pasha, Inspector-General of the Hedjaz Railway, in January last (see my despatch No. 3 of 3rd February last). On this occasion, on the 21st October, the officer was wounded, and the soldiers returned with the caravan to Medina.

On the 1st November a large force of soldiers, including some artillery, went out from Medina and attacked the Beni-Ali and Auf about 3 miles from the town, but met with serious resistance. I am not informed how long the engagement lasted, but it would seem to have been some hours at least. Twenty-one soldiers and one officer were killed, and sixty-five soldiers and one officer were wounded. The killed and wounded of the Bedouins are said to have been about 220. In the result the troops had to retire into the town, leaving behind, in the hands of the Bedouins, a considerable

* No. 57.

quantity of ammunition. An informant says that the troops were Syrians, and showed little courage. About 1,600 of the townspeople of Medina were put under arms, and were daily, up to at least the 4th November, the date of my latest information, patrolling with the troops the outskirts of the town, and exchanging fire with Bedouins.

A bombardment was, till the same date, being kept up by artillery in the town on neighbouring villages of the Beni-Ali, some of which tribe are settled in villages. Large reinforcements of troops were expected in Medina from the north. The pilgrim caravans are now about to leave Mecca for Medina, and their security on the road seems doubtful.

On the 12th instant a serious disturbance occurred in Mecca between the people of one ward of the town, called the Fauk ward, and troops and gendarmes. Of the troops and gendarmes five were killed and thirteen wounded, and of the townspeople six were killed and about seventeen wounded. In the end, peace was made by the Vali, and some of the Sherifian family. Most confused and most conflicting accounts are given of the causes of the disturbance, but it seems clear that it was due to an order given by the Committee of Union and Progress in Mecca, the new constitutional body, which is meddling in all Government affairs, that a tax should be levied for the maintenance of the cemetery and general sanitary purposes, on the occasion of each funeral. There was a funeral on that day, and the keeper of the cemetery demanded the tax. He seems to have had a rival, a candidate for the post of keeper of the cemetery, who had offered the Committee to keep the cemetery in order without any regular tax, and his personal rivalry may have had something to do with the disturbance. Two of the soldiers and one of the townspeople were killed in the "Haram," the inclosure round the great mosque. The authorities are stated to be now holding inquiries into the affair.

As I have the honour to report in my despatch No. of to-day's date, 1,100 fresh troops are now in Mecca, so it may be supposed that the somewhat feeble Government there will now be strengthened.

A week ago, the appointment of the new Grand Sherif, Husain Pasha, first cousin of the Grand Sherif Ali who has been dismissed, was proclaimed at Mecca, and, I understand, that Husain Pasha is now on his way from Constantinople. The change is locally attributed to the Vali Kazeni Pasha's dissatisfaction with ex-Grand Sherif Ali Pasha, persisting in his refusal to come from Taif to Mecca (see my immediately preceding despatch). Ali Pasha still remains in Taif, but there does not appear to be any serious danger of him raising his Bedouins against the Government.

It is stated that the Kaimakam of Jeddah, Husain Husni Bey, is about to be replaced by Abdul Ghani Pasha, hitherto Kaimakam of Kuneitra, near Damascus, but there seems to be still some doubt about this as the Vali and the Jeddah Committee of Union and Progress have both telegraphed petitions that the present Kaimakam should be kept here. He, the present Kaimakam, seems to be harmless and in favour of progress. Some sign of progress is very desirable. It may be mentioned that the water supply of Jeddah is now as bad as ever, the condenser having broken down for want of a competent engineer, and I hear the Mecca water supply is equally bad, the aqueduct there repaired last year having now ceased to work properly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

Consul Dowy to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 63.)

Sir,

Damascus, November 17, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 61 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to give the following details on the recent disturbance created by the Bedouins near Medina.

A Bedouin tribe called Beni Ali, numbering about 1,000 men, living in and around a certain village called "Awali," only 2 miles from Medina, have been for the last three months or so disturbing the security of roads in that locality, by receiving and entertaining in their houses bands of marauders coming from other tribes and seeking to rob pilgrims or natives and divide the booty with their hosts and run away into the desert. Said Pasha, Muhafiz of Medina, who advised and warned them

repeatedly, but vainly, to put an end to such relations with raiders, decided to build a fort in their village and equip it with troops so as to prevent such marauders from being sheltered among Beni Ali, and when he sent to the chosen spot about 400 troops to start the work Beni Ali showed determined resistance to the scheme and opened fire on the troops, who responded bravely at first, but owing to their small number were forced to retreat orderly into Medina leaving the guns situated close to the town walls to fire shells and destroy the village of Awali.

The casualties on the side of the troops were twelve killed and about twenty-five wounded, while those of the Bedouins exceeded 100.

Subsequent to this conflict, which took place on the 2nd instant, Said Pasha armed about 1,600 men of Medina people to help the troops in case of a renewed attack by the reinforced Bedouins against the town, and applied for reinforcement to the Ministry of War, an application which was at once attended to by sending six guns and two battalions from this province. But it was found afterwards that the Bedouins were too wise to abide by their foolish idea of resisting the Government, and sent their delegates to intreat Said Pasha to forgive their rash disobedience and accept their submission, but the Governor refused to listen to their solicitations and gave them to understand that they would receive the severest chastisement.

However, it is believed that no further bloodshed will be necessary, and the incident is practically closed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

[42602] No. 60.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 815.)
Sir, *Pera, December* 1, 1908.

I REPORTED in my despatch No. 462 of the 10th August last that Mgr. Ormanian was to be replaced as Armenian Patriarch by Mgr. Ismirlian.

Some ten days ago he was unanimously elected by the General Council of the Armenian Gregorian Church, which, as a result of the Constitution, met for the first time for many years.

On the 28th ultimo his Beatitude was officially received by the Sultan at Yildiz and by the Grand Vizier and other Ministers at the Porte.

The usual ceremonial was followed, the Sultan being attended by his First Secretary. His Beatitude addressed His Majesty expressing the great joy of the Armenian people at the Constitution which His Majesty had granted and the hope that he would receive the support of His Majesty and his Ministers in the task that lay before him. He finally offered up prayers for His Majesty's welfare.

The Sultan, who is reported to have shown great cordiality, expressed his intense satisfaction at Mgr. Ismirlian's re-election and the cordial relations existing between Turks and Armenians. He assured his Beatitude that he and his Ministers would do all in their power to secure their prosperity, and he charged him to give his Imperial greeting to his co-religionists. On the conclusion of the official reception, His Majesty engaged the Patriarch for a few minutes in private conversation.

At the Porte and along the route cheers were raised by Moslems and Armenians alike, and there is little doubt that the election is a most popular one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[42997] No. 61.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 826.)
Sir, *Pera, December* 3, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a despatch which has just reached me from His Majesty's Vice-Consul of Hodeidah, reporting on the general situation in the Yemen. You will perceive that Mr. Richardson can give no very satisfactory account of things there, and that the same dislocation of the administration exists there as in so many other parts of the Empire.

Only a day or two before the arrival of this despatch, the new Governor-General, Hassan Tahsin Pasha, left for his post, and thus unfortunately it was impossible to give him a few hints in the direction suggested by Mr. Richardson. On the other hand, the new Minister of the Interior was once Vali of the Yemen, and should know how to deal with its requirements. It is true that his administration of that Province was unpopular and not particularly successful, but it seems as if this were due to the Palace influences which were at that time brought to bear upon Hilmi Pasha rather than to any shortcomings of his own.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure in No. 61.

Vice-Consul Richardson to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 22 c.)
Sir, *Hodeidah, October* 28, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my cablegram of yesterday, informing your Excellency that I had returned here from Sana'a, and was about to proceed to Camaran.

I left Sana'a on the 18th instant and travelled along the usual caravan route as far as Mefaq', some 40 miles to the south-west. I then diverted my course for the Sana'a-Hodeidah telegraphic route, and went further south-west to a military post, Beit-el-Nejd, from where I followed the road along the Sanfur Wadi for about 25 miles till it joined the Saham Wadi. My direction was next to the west to Obal, which is on the usual caravan tract, and thence to Hodeidah, that was reached on the morning of the 23rd instant.

The above route was that adopted by the Italian traveller Manzoni in his journey through Yemen in 1879, and lies between the Harraz Range and Djebel Lahab on the west, and the Aniz range of mountains that runs on the east.

Its present importance is chiefly centred in the fact that it will be the route which the projected Hodeidah-Sana'a Railway will partly take, in traversing the Wadi Fersh that runs to the east of the Aniz Mountains.

At present, camel caravans in order to avoid the steep mountainous district of Harraz use the Saham-Sanfur Wade route to Sana'a viâ Mefaq'.

The two above-mentioned wadis are garrisoned by two battalions of infantry distributed between the military posts at Beit-el-Nejd, Beit-el-Sharifa, Beit-el-Kabili, and Bab Kohlan, with small detachments posted on the heights *en route*, military transport and supplies are pushed to Sana'a from Hodeidah along this route.

At Obal the Turks have a supply depôt, that is guarded by two companies of infantry.

Everything was quiet up at Sana'a and its environs at the time of my departure. The military element was just recovering from the effects of the intoxication brought on by the promulgation of the Constitution throughout Yemen.

The veteran Field-Marshal, Fezi Pasha, used great tact in preserving order and discipline amongst the officers and the 6,000 troops that garrison the capital, since the grant of the Constitution was announced.

At first some trouble was anticipated, and it was even rumoured that the officers had a plot afloat to imprison the old Field-Marshal, and give the chief command to one of the other generals. Ahmed Fezi Pasha defeated their designs by taking timely precautions and removing the most troublesome and undesirable characters by sending them away to Constantinople, and promising others leave in due time. About 60 or 70 officers have thus left the Army Corps from Sana'a alone.

The steps taken appear to have collapsed the military movement that threatened, that might otherwise have developed serious results.

On the whole, order and discipline amongst the large Sana'a garrison compares most favourably with that existing in many other important military centres in the Empire at this critical epoch in Ottoman history, and reflects great credit on the Commander-in-chief.

My stay at Sana'a was rendered most agreeable by the courtesy shown me by the Acting Vali.

On my arrival at Hodeidah I find matters in a confused state, only brought about in the course of the past week. A state of semi-anarchy, as it were, may be said to exist. The military seem masters of the situation.

On the 19th instant a number of officers of the local garrison intercepted the carriage of the Mutessarif of Hodeidah while he was driving to his office, made him dismount by force, and without question or explanation compelled him to enter a boat that they had kept ready, and embark immediately on the Rubattino steamer "Pelora" that was lying in port, and that sailed the same afternoon for Suez.

The late Mutessarif, Ahmed Izzat Bey, who had only been at Hodeidah for about three months, though incompetent was an inoffensive old official, and I believe very honest in his dealings, and did not merit in the least the arbitrary and insulting treatment he was subjected to.

The officers placed the local Commandant, General Arif Hikmet Pasha, in charge of the mutessarifilik, who might be said to be even more incompetent and useless than his predecessor. The General is merely a puppet, and virtually under orders of the officers referred to.

These latter, numbering some thirty or forty at Hodeidah, for the most part uneducated, in conjunction with a few petty civil officials and some Arabs of no importance, have formed themselves into a body which they call "The Hodeidah Ottoman Committee of Union and Progress."

They appear to be interfering in the internal administrative affairs of this sanjak, and embarrassing such civil officials as still remain in the execution of their duties.

A few days ago they dismissed the Kaïmakam of Djebel Reima, who was an Arab Sheikh, and replaced him by a military officer, in spite of orders to the contrary from the vilayet.

The situation is becoming more complicated every day, and this morning a report from Sana'a says that Fezi Pasha, the Governor-General, has resigned and another that he has been dismissed. The Cadi and Muhasabjee (Controller of Accounts) of the Hodeidah district both resigned their appointments, and left for Constantinople without permission, a few days before the Mutessarif was driven away, anticipating rough treatment at the hands of the local military officers.

The mutessarifilik is without a Mudir Tahrirat (Chief of the Correspondence) and the Court of First Instance without a President. In short, there are no responsible administrative officials left in this town at present.

News has just arrived from Hujjeh that the troops there, at the instigation of their officers, arrested and imprisoned the Commandant of that important military outpost, General Hakki Pasha, a few days ago.

The authority of the Vali and Commander-in-chief may be said to be set at naught in the Hodeidah district.

It is difficult to say how long this state of affairs will last, but matters will grow serious for the Ottoman Government should the same continue for any length of time, especially should Ahmed Fezi Pasha relinquish his command at this critical juncture.

The Imam, who has been long inactive and rendered impotent through the tact and courage of Fezi Pasha, might profit by the confused situation in the Yemen and strike another blow. A friendly word of advice might be thrown out to the Ottoman Government for the preservation of peace and order in this vilayet should your Excellency think fit.

I am of opinion that the retention of Marshal Ahmed Fezi Pasha in the chief command of the troops in the Yemen is urgently called for in Ottoman interests. The Government would do well in asking him to remain for another year at Sana'a, although it is doubtful whether his Excellency would consent to do so.

I take this opportunity of correcting the information previously furnished, to the effect that Fezi Pasha was in his dotage and physically and mentally unfit to command the Yemen Army Corps. Though 75 years of age he is hale and hearty, and the peaceful state of Yemen during the past twelve months is entirely attributable to his tactful ability and judicious treatment of Arab Sheikhs, who formerly rebelled but now announce their allegiance to the Sultan.

My recent visit to Sana'a after an absence of two years has helped to correct many wrong impressions, and has afforded ample opportunities for studying the situation in this ever-changing province.

The veteran Field-Marshal might with advantage be relieved of the duties of Acting Vali, which are a great strain on him, and in the performance of which he is without proper advice or assistance.

The name of Mahmood Nedim Bey, a former Adjoint of the Yemen Governor-General, who has had considerable experience of Yemen affairs, in which he is better versed than any other official in Turkey, and who still enjoys great popularity in this vilayet amongst the inhabitants everywhere as well as commands the respect of the

Imam, might be suggested in a friendly spirit to the Ministry of the Interior for nomination as Vali of this province.

There is also to be found locally a capable, honest, and experienced official, Kiamil Bey, at present Kaïmakam of Zebeed, who would make an ideal Mutessarif of Hodeidah.

The situation in the Yemen can, in my humble opinion, be saved by the retention of Fezi Pasha in military command at Sana'a, with the appointment of Mahmood Nedim Bey as Vali and Kiamil Bey as Mutessarif of Hodeidah. The position of the Turks would be thereby greatly strengthened and all possible difficulties tided over locally at a time when the Imperial Government is engrossed with external affairs.

There are at present about 23,000 troops stationed in this vilayet, including those garrisoning the Assyr Sanjak, which force is considered sufficiently strong to meet all emergencies.

With truth and great respect, I have, &c.

(Signed) G. A. RICHARDSON.

[42955] No. 62.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 9.)

Sir, *Admiralty, December 8, 1908.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 21st September last, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extract from a letter, dated the 19th ultimo, received through the Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean, from His Majesty's ship "Crescent," respecting the visit of that ship to Jeddah.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. I. THOMAS.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Captain Henderson to Admiral Sir C. Drury.

(Extract.) *"Crescent," at Malta, November 19, 1908.*

I LEFT Colombo at daylight on Wednesday, the 28th ultimo, and arrived at Perim Island at 7 P.M. on Wednesday, the 4th instant.

While at that port I received a telegram from the Admiralty (copy attached), directing me to call at Jeddah to show the flag.

I accordingly sailed from Perim at 10 A.M. on Friday, the 6th instant, and arrived at Jeddah at 2 P.M. on Sunday, the 8th instant, where I found everything quiet.

On Monday, the 9th instant, being the anniversary of the birth of His Majesty the King, His Majesty's ship under my command was dressed, and a Royal salute fired at noon.

I left Jeddah on Tuesday morning, the 10th instant, and arrived at Port Tewfik at 7·30 P.M. on Thursday, the 12th.

[43285] No. 63.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 12.)

Sir, *India Office, December 11, 1908.*

IN reply to your letter, dated the 2nd instant, respecting the claims of the Persian Government to sovereignty over the Island of Bahrein, I am directed to inform you that Viscount Morley concurs in the proposal of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to accept the amended note submitted by the Persian Government subject to the omission suggested.

The Bahreini claim, which Sir G. Barclay states that he intends to present, will presumably afford an opportunity for bringing further pressure to bear upon the Persian Government in the event of their action being unsatisfactory.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[43483] No. 64.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 846.)

Sir, *Pera, December 8, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of an article from the "Shura-i-ummet," giving a summary of the decisions taken by the Council of Ministers with regard to reforms which it is proposed to carry out in the Yemen Vilayet.

These proposals have been elaborated, partly at the instance of, and partly in collaboration with, Ferik Hassan Tahsin Pasha, the new Vali of the Yemen. The Vali is an upright and energetic Turk from South Albania.

The most doubtful point in this scheme of reforms, which is an honest endeavour to introduce order and justice into the distressful province of the Yemen, is whether the Imam Yahya will agree to his independent sphere being restricted to the district of Sada, and whether he will give up the claim of his predecessors to Sana'a, &c.

In reply to an inquiry as to how he would be able to overcome this difficulty, Hassan Tahsin Pasha said that when he got to Sana'a he hoped by a firm and conciliatory policy to induce the Imam not to insist on his full claims, which are incompatible with Ottoman suzerainty, especially as the new system to be introduced goes a certain way towards establishing a semi-autonomous régime for Yemen.

I understand that the Ottoman Society of Arab Union is in communication with the Imam through the Sultan of Lahej in the Aden Hinterland, and, among others, with a view to prevailing upon him not to take up an irreconcilable attitude towards the Turkish Government, which has now adopted the principles of equality and justice.

I have, &c
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Extract from the "Shura-i-ummet" of December 3, 1908.

(Translation.)

THE deliberations in the Council of Ministers concerning reforms in the Yemen Vilayet have come to an end. The following is the summary we have obtained of the decisions taken :—

That instructions be given here in Constantinople to Tahsin Pasha, Vali of the Yemen, to the following effect, namely :

To inquire into the present number of the military forces and to determine the true number required; to replace such officials as have acquired a reputation for bad conduct by suitable persons : that the police be reorganized, and that lawsuits in places in the Yemen other than on the coast be dealt with by the Sheri Courts; to devote attention to the malpractices which have hitherto been in use in the collection of the local taxes and to the complaints arising therefrom, and, by putting into execution the terms of the regulation as to the collection of taxes and by other suitable means, to restore the work of collection to a legitimate and regular course, and to leave no room for the malpractices and complaints which have arisen; and to take measures for the reform and increase of the existing local schools, and to devote efforts to the dissipation of the darkness of ignorance and to the advance of learning which is the basis of civilization, and towards sending to the military and civil schools in Constantinople the more competent among those who desire it of the sons of the local Notables, and towards sending to the Teachers' Training College pupils to be employed later as teachers in the local schools

That, as it will not be possible always to remit money from here, means be found to defray the local expenses from the revenues of the vilayet, and that, on the present occasion, £T. 50,000 be remitted from the Treasury in order that two months' pay and allowances be paid to the civil functionaries and military officers and men.

That, owing to the high prices and the distance, local salaries be proportionally increased.

That, in order to police the coasts of the vilayet and prevent smuggling a few ships, to be selected by the Ministry of Marine, be sent thither.

That, owing to its distance from Sana'a, the Sanjak of Asi be detached from the Yemen Vilayet and created into an independent Mutessarifate.

That, as the facilitation of transport by establishing a railway from Hodeidah to Sana'a is of the utmost importance, the plans formerly drawn up for the purpose be examined, and measures be taken to put them into execution.

That the civil and religious administration in the district of Sana'a, where he resides, be delegated to the Sherif Yahya, who claims the Imamate, and that an end be thus put to bloodshed among Moslems, and that in regard to this matter, as news has been received of the arrival of the Yemen Notables, Sherif Abdullah-bin-Hassan and his companions, who were recently sent by the Government, the decision to be taken by the Government on the conclusion of their efforts be awaited.

That the increases to be made in the salaries both civil and military be notified after examination, and that, as the retention of officials for a long period in the said districts is productive of despair and lassitude, a period of three years be fixed for military officers and two for civil officials, and that the civil officials have at the end of two years from the date of entering on their duties the option of being transferred or applying for three months' leave, and their wish be at once complied with and return travelling expenses be allowed them.

These decisions, having been come to by the Council of Ministers, have been signified in detail by despatches from the Grand Vizierate to the Ministry of the Interior and thence to the Vali of the said province, to the Sheykh-ul-Islamate, to the Ministries of War and Marine, and to the land Registry Department.

[44034] No. 65.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Viscount Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of Bagdad Residency Diary for the three weeks ending the 24th October, 1908.

A copy has been sent to the Director of Military Operations.

India Office, December 8, 1908.

Inclosure 1 in No. 65.

Political Diary of the Bagdad Residency for the Week ending October 12, 1908.

(Confidential.)

284. THE representatives of the Salonica Committee arrived at Bagdad on the 10th October and were given an enthusiastic reception (see paragraph 282).

285. A stern-wheel steamer, belonging to a local Company, has for long been lying idle in the river, because she could not get permission to run. It is now proposed to send her up to Samarrah; it seems a little doubtful whether her condition will allow her to get there.

286. The prohibition on the export of wheat, barley, and ghi continues in force. It is rumoured that it will only last as long as the Ramadhan (see paragraph 245).

287. Preparations are being made to sent a battalion to Samawah on the Euphrates, and it is said that punitive measures will be taken against the Muntafic Arabs for robbing a caravan on the Bagdad–Aleppo road some time ago.

(Signed) J. RAMSAY, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Political Resident in Turkish Arabia and His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Bagdad.*

Bagdad, October 12, 1908.

Inclosure 2 in No. 65.

Political Diary of the Bagdad Residency for the Week ending October 19, 1908.

(Confidential.)
(Extract.)

290. THE new Vali for Bussorah left Bagdad on the 18th October for Bussorah.

291. The arrival of the representatives of the Salonica Committee appears to have had a very disturbing influence at Mosul, as will be seen from the subscribed copy of Mr. Young's Diary, dated the 14th October:—

"On the 10th instant two individuals arrived from Diarbekir claiming to represent the Salonica Committee. Extraordinary preparations were made for their reception, the Governor-General and the Commandant even going out to meet them.

"On the following day, Sunday, they delivered speeches in the courtyard of the barracks, which has produced a most unfortunate impression, and are generally described as highly injudicious. They appear to have used violent and very undignified language against the Administration as until recently carried on, and, if not directly, at least by implication, to have gone out of their way to show disrespect to the Sultan. Their attitude towards friendly Powers, *e.g.*, Great Britain, France, Austria, and Russia, was evinced in certain observations with regard to Egypt, Cyprus, Tunis, Bosnia, Kars, &c., and seems to be in striking contrast to the declarations of those by whom they profess to have been sent. This part of their speeches was received with indifference, but the implied contempt for the Caliph has evoked a good deal of unfavourable comment.

"I have not had an opportunity of seeing the individuals referred to, but an important Moslem Notable of my acquaintance describes them as being 'very ordinary in appearance and persons of no distinction whatever.' In the circumstances it seems strange that it should not have been found possible to send more tactful representatives to instruct public opinion in this part of the Empire. Further, if their purpose is to act—or even to report upon the state of affairs—independently, it would have appeared prudent to refuse private hospitality during their visit.

"Mosul is honeycombed with intrigues, and, unless these gentlemen are more experienced diplomatists than appears to be the case, they may find it difficult to steer a straight course.

"The effect of their presence so far has been considerably to disturb the public mind; the beating and hustling of Christians, which had ceased for some weeks past, has recommenced, and on Sunday and Monday eight cases are reported.

"Several Moslems with whom I have had an opportunity of talking within the last three days spoke pessimistically of the state of affairs, I am inclined to think with reason.

"The Vali, with the best intentions, and generally liked, is blown hither and thither by intrigues, and is no more than the mouthpiece of the faction of the moment. Unfortunately his most constant adviser is a certain Haji Mahomet Sabonji Pasha, to whom reference has already been made. The latter is a man of low extraction, who appears to have amassed a fortune by very questionable means. He makes it his business to be the first to show hospitality to every newly appointed official, and by a liberal expenditure of bakshish he seems to have acquired an almost unassailable position. He was all-powerful with the ex-Vali, and it looks as though Zekki Pasha were unable to shake him off. I am not personally acquainted with him, but, from all I hear from the better class Moslems and Christians without distinction, Sabonji, as he is called, is universally detested, and regarded as the almost certain instigator of any mischief that may be afoot."

Inclosure 3 in No. 65.

Political Diary of the Bagdad Residency for the Week ending October 24, 1908.

(Confidential.)
(Extract.)

293. THE priests in charge of the Chaldean School have decided to give up teaching French in future, and to teach English instead. They have long been thinking of improving the English education given, and I understand that the news of Sir William Willcocks' engagement has decided them to act at once.

[42997] No. 66.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 526.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 18, 1908.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 826 of the 3rd instant, forwarding a report from Mr. Vice-Consul Richardson on the situation in the Yemen, which appears to be unsatisfactory.

Unless you see any objection, your Excellency should bring this state of things to the notice of the Ottoman Government in a private and unofficial manner.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[44235] No. 67.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 19.)

(No. 164.)
Sir, *Athens, December* 9, 1908.

WITH reference to Mr. Young's despatch No. 113 of the 28th July, I have the honour to transmit herewith a summary by Mr. Campbell of an informal debate which took place on the 3rd instant in the Greek Chamber on the Samos incident of last spring and its consequences. The debate was remarkable for M. Theotoky's declaration that, in his opinion, the events of Samos were due to petty local passions, an opinion which probably no other Greek politician would have had the courage openly to avow, and which aroused the cry of "treason" not only in the Chamber but in the press. In a letter to the "Athenai" of next day, M. Sophoulis upheld his policy in Samos as a continued effort not to regard the island as a separate and independent State, but as an indissoluble portion of the Greek race, a declaration quite different from his account of himself six months ago, and not calculated under present circumstances to dispose the Greek Government more favourably towards him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Summary of Debate in the Greek Chamber, December 3, 1908.

AFTER a few trivial questions, M. Dragoumis referred to the late episode of Samos. He said that M. Sophoulis had addressed a letter to the Premier, which was still waiting for its reply, just as M. Sophoulis was still waiting for the audience he had sought. Reference was made to the pitiable plight of some of the refugees from Samos, while a list was read out of certain Greeks in prison at Samos condemned to death.

M. Theotoky tried to pass the matter over in silence, but at last said that he knew his duty to the Greeks abroad, but that every one who acted as he liked should not expect it as a principle to come here and expect help.

M. Dragoumis retorted that he had not meant to refer to the action of M. Sophoulis, and that the Premier had wilfully misinterpreted him. He then cited the instance of M. Tricoupis, who refused to supply the Cretans, when in revolt, with a single rifle or cartridge, but aided thousands when they came to Greece.

M. Koundouriotis said that those Samians were fighting on behalf of the rights granted to the island by Europe seventy years before. The Premier was evidently afraid of the results if he received the Premier of the island.

M. Rhallys said that the Premier speaking on such topics should weigh his words; the status of the Samian refugees was more difficult now in consequence of his words. Though small, Greece cannot neglect her duty; but now the Premier has laid it down as an axiom that no help can be given to refugees, unless in his opinion the reasons which led to their flight were good. He himself had done what he could to improve their relations with Turkey. Since the rights of citizenship were granted to all now, it meant that the rights of humanity were recognized for the first time, and that, consequently, it was doubly painful to reflect on the events in Samos. While the rest of Turkey was freed from the dread nightmare which had oppressed her for so many

years, in Samos a Constitution was established which denied all the privileges of the island. If they were unable to give aid to ten people, the finances of the State must be hopeless.

M. Theotoky denied this, and said that if he were forced to give his opinion, the events of Samos were due to petty local passions.

Great excitement followed this remark, and tumult reigned for some time. Some one claimed that they were not in quorum, and the list is read amidst disorder. A quorum is present, and the debate resumed.

M. Theotoky said that he was not betraying his country, as some said, but that Greece had a position to maintain. The Opposition should have been in power at that moment, when there was such unrest, and such grave issues at stake, before they hurl such accusations as this. He then referred to the necessity of dealing with these topics in a fair and open way, and not interrupting, and he reminded them that he never interrupted the Opposition leader in his attacks on them. It had been said that M. Sophoulis was starving, thanks to the neglect of the Greek Government, but he should like to remind them that M. Sophoulis was holding a situation, thanks to the Government. Debates were necessary, but at times certain topics ought to be avoided, and he trusted that in future the foreign policy would be untouched at a moment of crisis.

M. Rhallys replied that shortly the Samian question would come before other judges. The rights of every section of Hellenism must be protected, or else his axiom that Greece is the protector of Hellenism falls to the ground.

M. Mavromichalis professed to agree with the Premier's remark that there is a time and place for all things, and that such a discussion ought not to have arisen at present. Still, the reply of the Premier was somewhat tactless, and, at any rate, he regarded the present Prince of Samos as a relic of the old tyranny of Turkey, and he could not imagine how he kept his post.

[44443] No. 68.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 861.)

Sir, *Pera, December 15, 1908.*

WITH reference to Mr. Townley's despatch No. 863 of the 8th November, 1904, transmitting copy of a despatch from the Acting British Consul at Bussorah, in which he stated that the Acting Vali had told him Sheikh Abdul Rahman had been definitely deprived of the position of Mudir of Wakra in the Katr peninsula, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah on this subject.

Mr. Crow transmits copy of a letter from the British Resident at Bushire, stating that the Al-bu-Ainain tribe are sending a mission to the Vali of Bussorah with a view to securing a Turkish military post at Wakra.

Mr. Crow states that he is taking an early opportunity of dissuading the Vali from listening to any representations that the Al-bu-Ainain may make.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 68.

Consul Crow to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 85.)

Sir, *Bussorah, November 20, 1908.*

WITH reference to the correspondence between His Majesty's Embassy and this Consulate regarding the suppression of the Turkish Mudirate at Wakra in the Katr peninsula, which ended with Mr. Monahan's despatch No. 53 of the 13th October, 1904, I have the honour to transmit copy of a letter and inclosures received from the British Resident at Bushire.

The Resident is afraid that the alleged mission of the Al-bu-Ainain to the Vali of Bussorah may lead to further interference on the part of the Turkish authorities.

I am taking an early opportunity of letting the Vali know that it would be

inadvisable to give ear to any representations the Al-bu-Ainain may make, and I will endeavour to communicate with Ahmed-bin-Khatar, if he comes to Bussorah, in the sense desired by His Majesty's Resident at Bushire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 68.

British Resident, Bushire, to Consul Crow.

Bushire, November 17, 1908.

Sir,

YOU are, I know, familiar with the correspondence of 1903 in connection with the endeavour of the Turkish authorities to assert themselves at Wakra on the Katr coast. I need therefore do no more than allude to it.

I have now the honour to attach copies of two communications which reached me last evening from Bahrein.

Pending any communication which you may feel called upon to make to His Majesty's Embassy, perhaps you will see no objection to giving the Vali a friendly hint calculated to induce him to refrain from giving encouragement to the alleged mission from the Al-bu-Ainain.

If you could also get into communication with their emissary, Ahmed-bin-Khatar, and, if there is no local objection, inform him that our Representative at Bahrein will be instructed to visit them and endeavour to bring about a satisfactory understanding between the tribe and Sheikh Jasin, it would be additionally helpful.

I shall not move further until I receive your reply.

I have, &c.
(For Resident, Persian Gulf),
(Signed) M. E. RAE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 68.

Extract from the Diary of the Bahrein Political Agency for the Week ending November 13, 1908.

ITEM 354, November 7.

It is reported that Sheikh Jasim-bin-Thani rode from Lusail to Doha, and thence sent his nephew Khalid-bin-Mohammed asking an interview with some of the leading men of the Al-bu-Ainain tribe. These came to see him at Doha. Sheikh Jasim reminded them of the old standing amity and friendship between the Maadih, Sheikh Jasim's own tribe, and the Al-bu-Ainain, and assured them that nothing would be done by him or by his sons to break the old traditions. The tribe is said to be satisfied with the assurance given them by the old Sheikh, and have decided to remain at Wakra as before. Sheikh Abdurrahman has since visited the chief men of the tribe, and in an apologetic tone asked them to consider bygones to be bygones.

Inclosure 4 in No. 68.

The Head Clerk in charge Political Agency, Bahrein, to the First Assistant Resident, Bushire.

November 14, 1908.

WITH reference to this office diary of the 13th November last, I have the honour to report that Sheikh Shahin-bin-Toq, Headman of the Al-bu-Ainain tribe in Bahrein, has confidentially reported to this Agency that his tribe at Wakra have not placed much faith on the assurances given them by Sheikh Jasim-bin-Thani and his son, Sheikh Abdurrahman, and that their decision to keep their place is due to the advice given to them that they are too numerous and strong to be ejected from Wakra by Sheikh Jasim or his son, Abdurrahman, that they can successfully resort to arms if any further attempt is made to molest them, and that they should not leave a town which is entirely of their own making for the last several generations.

All the same, Sheikh Shahin says, the tribe do not feel themselves strong enough, and they are therefore approaching the Turkish Government, soliciting the favour of

appointing a small military post at Wakra to save them and their town from aggression in future by the Maadih and their followers. With this object in view the tribe have sent a deputy to Bussorah, Ahmeu-bin-Khatar-al-bu-Ainain, a resident of Bahrein, by the last up-mail steamer, who will interview the Vali there and explain to him the case of the tribe and their wish to secure a military post for Wakra.

45480] No. 69.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 22.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Viscount Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of Bagdad Residency diary for the two weeks ending the 9th November, 1908.

A copy has been sent to the Director of Military Operations.

India Office, December 21, 1908.

Inclosure 1 in No. 69.

Political Diary of the Bagdad Residency for the week ending November 2, 1908.

(Confidential.)

309. THE stern-wheel steamer which went to Samarrah has returned from that place (see paragraph 295).

310. Bagdad is once more as quiet as usual.

311. I give below a copy of Mr. Young's diary, dated the 20th October :—

"*October* 16.—A certain Osman Effendi, a Mullah, accompanied by ten or twelve ruffians, came to the gate of the Consulate this afternoon and openly threatened, in the hearing of the dragoman and several workmen, to demolish the gateway, &c., in the course of the night. The Vali was informed, and after satisfying himself that there had been no legitimate opposition to the work in progress, ordered Osman Effendi to be arrested and sent twenty-five gendarmes for the protection of the Consulate.

"*October* 17.—The President of the Municipality and the Officer Commanding the Gendarmerie called, apparently by order of the Vali, and minimised the occurrence of yesterday.

"Dined with Muhammad Effendi Muftizade to meet Vali, Commandant, the two emissaries of the Committee of Union and Progress, and about a score of officials and Notables (all Moslems). Emin Beg says he has just sold a bit of land near the new Consulate for exactly seven times what it would have fetched two months ago.

"The two emissaries strike one as being a little vulgar. Their habit of laying down the law and rather lecturing the company perhaps partly accounts for their unsuccess in an exclusive society where their origin is very well known. Somewhat tactlessly they left before his Excellency.

"*October* 18.—This evening two Christians came to the Consulate in a state of excitement, saying that a house where they had been assisting at a wedding had been attacked by Moslems and that they and others of the party had been beaten. Asked why they came to the British Consulate instead of addressing themselves to the proper authorities, they stated that they had applied for help at the nearest Caracol without success. One of them was apparently in a state of exhaustion and collapsed on the spot. Shortly afterwards another reported that his brother had been wounded with a knife and that the disturbance was still going on. The matter was brought to the notice of the Vali, who gave immediate instructions for its investigation.

"In the course of a week it seems that there have been upwards of twenty cases of Christians and Jews being hustled, beaten, or otherwise molested by Moslems.

"It is easy to condemn these acts of violence; but at the same time it would appear that in several cases at least the Christians have done a good deal to bring these misfortunes upon themselves. In a city where nine-tenths of the population are Moslems, and just now either fasting or pretending to fast, it is mere folly for the other tenth to smoke and drink spirits in public before sunset. Even a wedding, unless it can be celebrated without exuberant hilarity, were better postponed, in the circumstances, until after Ramadan.

"Nevertheless, when all allowance has been made for not unnatural outbursts of fanaticism in such a wild place as Mosul, there is at the present moment unquestionably a degree of unrest and bitterness which gives serious cause for anxiety.

"The speeches of the two emissaries referred to on the 14th October appear to have given great offence; the Ulema are in open opposition to them, and signs are not wanting that mischievous persons are endeavouring to take advantage of the disturbed state of public feeling to excite religious animosity.

"There is every appearance that the Vali is doing his best under very trying conditions; but he has many difficulties to contend with. In the first place, no one quite knows what to make of the two emissaries of the Committee of Union and Progress. What authority have they, and what influence at Constantinople? It seems almost inevitable that the Vali must offend either them or the Ulema and, with the latter, the whole of the Conservative party here. The choice is a hard one, and the difficulty of his Excellency's position is increased by the purely selfish intrigues of many of the Notables and the constant interference of certain busybodies, *e.g.*, Sabonji and Bedy Bey, representative of the Public Debt, in the affairs of Government. It looks as though a little might precipitate disaster.

"Without questioning the excellence of their motives, one cannot help thinking that the emissaries might have done more for Union and Progress by postponing their visit until a more favourable occasion.

"In the interests of good government here and throughout the province, it is greatly to be hoped that the Vali will receive from Constantinople every encouragement to assert his authority unmistakably and without reference to the confusing counsels thrust upon him here. In Mosul and the surrounding country it is likely to take time for people to appreciate the recent changes, and, in the meanwhile, any doubt as to who represents Government may have regrettable and far-reaching effects."

(Signed) J. RAMSAY, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Political Resident in Turkish Arabia, and His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Bagdad.*

Bagdad, November 2, 1908.

Inclosure 2 in No. 69.

Political Diary of the Bagdad Residency for the week ending November 9, 1908.

(Confidential.)

312. HAJI HUSSEIN MIRZA KHALIL, the most celebrated of the Mujtahids of Nedjef, has just died. His name carried much influence, but he had attained a great age and had been blind for some time. The most influential man, in name as well as in fact, at Nedjef is now Mulla Muhammad Kadhim, Khorassani. He is said to be a very eloquent preacher and he is an active politician of the Liberal party.

313. No official intimation regarding the removal of the prohibition against the export of wheat has been received from the vilayet, but wheat is now being exported. In the present state of affairs at Bagdad there is no use in officially complaining of this. The Vali is very friendly, but the vilayet office has been upset by the dismissal and reappointment of the Muktubchi, and also by arrangements for the elections.

314. The Mir of Khairpur has left Bagdad for Karbalia.

315. A report on the King's birthday celebrations will be submitted next week, as they will not be complete before the mail leaves.

316. Mr. Young's Report, dated the 29th October, 1908, is copied below :—

"The two emissaries from Salonika left to-day for Kurkuk. They deserve credit for having succeeded, in the brief triumph of their arrival, in abolishing the two rival Committees which had previously divided public opinion and embarrassed the local authorities with their purely personal jealousies and intrigues. Apart from this, I fear they have accomplished little.

"There is probably no reason whatever to doubt the sincerity of the motives of the two emissaries; but their selection was an unhappy one, in view of the special conditions which they were called upon to face in Mosul. To begin with, their origin was pretty well known and not likely in itself to insure them a respectful hearing either from the influential families or the masses. It is a population which likes to be impressed; and, if an imposing deputation of distinguished individuals had arrived with a big escort and

other tangible signs of authority and prestige, the result would have certainly been different. As it was, no one quite knew at first what to make of them: their appearance was not impressive, and their speeches, barring a scarcely veiled disrespect for the Sultan and certain well-recognized institutions, contained, as was said on all sides, 'nothing that had not been read already in the newspapers.' Their somewhat superfluous boasts of 'what we have accomplished at Salonika and Constantinople' were received almost with ridicule as coming from prophets in this their own country. The Ulema professed themselves offended by the reference to the Sultan, &c., and the intriguers who had been ready with profuse hospitality, and more, when they first arrived with a flourish of trumpets, grew cold. During the past ten days there have been no more speeches, and the population, having formed their own estimate of the visitors, became quite indifferent. The last straw was a report—I do not know whether true or not—that the latter were endeavouring to collect money. Less than three weeks ago the Vali and Commandant, and practically the whole population, went out to meet them. Their solitary departure this morning, accompanied only by a couple of Zaptiehs and no signs of consideration from any quarter, was significantly ignored.

"It is not yet clear what will result from the Committee—a secret one—which the emissaries seem to have appointed; but for the moment their visit to Mosul appears to have been a bad failure, and it seems a very great pity that those who sent them to instruct public opinion were not better informed of the requirements of the situation."

(Signed) J. RAMSAY, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Political Resident in Turkish Arabia, and His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Baghdad.*

Bagdad, November 9, 1908.

[44928] No. 70.

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Campbell to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 24.)

8, *Foulis Terrace, Onslow Gardens, South Kensington,*
December 23, 1908.

Sir,

IN reply to your communication of the 18th instant re share capital remaining in British hands, I have the honour to inform you—

1. The "Board of Directors" will be British;

2.—(*a.*) An exception may be made in the event of the Syrian proprietors desiring to be represented;

(*b.*) Should French co-operation be required (which is possible, but not probable), the French interests would have to be represented on the "Board";

3. Powers will be taken in the Memorandum of Association giving discretion to the Board as to allotment and transfers;

4. The Memorandum and Articles of Association will be submitted to the Foreign Office if so desired;

5. Every possible step that can be suggested or thought of will be taken to exclude German shareholders or influence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES CAMPBELL,
Vice-Admiral (Retired).

[45086] No. 71.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 28.)

(No. 872.)

Constantinople, December 21, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 813 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Jeddah, reporting further on the disturbance which occurred last month in Mecca.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Consul Monahan to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 64.)

Jeddah, December 2, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 60 of the 18th ultimo, relating a serious disturbance which took place in Mecca on the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to report further that the disturbance had the character of a demonstration against the supposed intention of the Government to abolish the Grand Sharifate, and against the Government's evident policy of curtailing the privileges and powers of the Grand Sherif. The cry of "down with the red Tarboushes" (*i.e.*, the Ottoman officials and soldiers) was raised. The details I give in my despatch are, according to seemingly overwhelming evidence, substantially correct, in spite of the denials of members of the Committee of Union and Progress, who assert that no cemetery tax was imposed by the order or at the instance of that Committee, and, indeed, that no cemetery tax was ordered at all. There appears to be no evidence to show that the dismissed Grand Sherif caused or fomented the disturbance. The new "Hejaz" newspaper, the hitherto mainly uninteresting organ of the Committee, gives a short and absurd account of the incident, saying merely that one or two ill-conditioned and discontented persons dared to fire at the Government building and at barracks, but were at once repulsed, and certain eminent persons came forward and restored [? order] after an hour-and-a-half or two hours disturbance, and announced to the people that it was over, while necessary steps have been taken to prevent recurrence of such disorder, an account of the matter which shows that freedom and Constitution have not changed the traditional Turkish method of relating untoward events.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN.

P.S.—The Committee has during the past two or three months been unsuccessfully attempting to impose various municipal taxes in Mecca, which has aroused great indignation, Mecca having hitherto been entirely exempt from municipal taxation.

J. H. M.

[45094] No. 72.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 28.)

(No. 880.)

Pera, December 22, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE received frequent complaints with regard to the insecurity of the Tigris in the neighbourhood of Bussorah; but I have now the honour to report in this connection that I have been informed that the two Turkish gun-boats "Nev-Shehir" and "Tash-Kishla" left Constantinople for Bussorah on the 15th instant. It is stated that they will be employed on the river there for excise duties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

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